

Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All



WECF | Women in Europe for a Common Future

Annual Report 2010

Impressum



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This publication is available from WECF
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Supported by

This publication has been made possible through the support of the Netherlands Ministry of Environment VROM, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fondation Ensemble, Bundesministerium für Umwelt (BMU)

- WECF has NGO status with United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
- WECF is an official partner of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- WECF represent ECO-Forum in the European Environment & Health Committee (EEHC)

Keywords: women, sustainable development, gender, health, environment, chemicals, energy, climate change, solid waste, water, wastewater, sanitation, organic agriculture, biodiversity, rural development, poverty elimination

Bank account numbers for tax Deductible donations:

The Netherlands

Rabobank
Account Number: 1266 45 116
Tenaamstelling: Wecf
IBAN: NL96 RABO 0126 6451 16
BIC: RABONL2J

France

Crédit Agricole de Savoie
Annemasse Saint André
Compte n°: 18106 00038
9671 1941 875 56
Code IBAN: FR76 1810 6000
3896 7119 4187 556
Code BIC: AGRIFRPP881

Germany

Stadtsparkasse München,
Munich
Account Number 1313 90 50
Bank code 701 500 00
IBAN: DE68 7015 0000 013
1390 50
BIC: SSKMDEMM

Annual Report 2010



“Women in Europe working together with women and men all over the world for an equitable and sustainable future”





Economic development still often comes at the expense of children's and workers health, and often depletes and pollutes natural resources. The challenge is to achieve economic development which is in balance with the wellbeing of people and nature.

As the global financial and economic crisis has shown, markets do not regulate themselves, and legislative frameworks, which control are uninformed. Democratic civil societies are a pre-requirement for "sustainable development". Great advances have been booked with the definition of universal human rights, the right of the child, women's rights, indigenous rights and environmental rights, but their implementation remains limited in most countries of the world, including in the so-called developed world.

At the same time, a feeling of universal citizenship and solidarity has been created, not in the least due to the development of global communication tools based on the internet, such as facebook and twitter, which can mobilize millions of people and youth around the world on issues of injustice, as the „Arab Spring“ has shown.

In 2010, despite the financial crisis, WECF has continued to increase its outreach to share the visions and priorities of women and their communities with decision makers and the general public around the world, particularly through our websites and facebook-pages reaching several hundred thousand visitors.

Through our local partner projects in low-income rural communities, we have continued to demonstrate the best practices for improving livelihoods whilst reducing environmental damage, with 2000 beneficiaries of innovative energy solutions including solar water heaters and solar fruit driers, and over 35,000 accumulated beneficiaries of our sanitation and water supply projects. Through our capacity building and training programmes, several hundred local trainers are now able to continue to share their newly gained skills to increase the number of people who benefit from these affordable and innovative solutions. Our member and partner organisations have been very active sharing lessons learned through our online tools such as Intera and Toni-finder, but most importantly through the 'open space' skills share meeting in Tatabunary, Ukraine in September 2010.

Many members contributed to creating better legislation and governance in 2010; particular highlights were our leading role in the high level policy conference in Moscow on adding chrysotile asbestos to the Rotterdam Convention, with Russia continuing to be the largest exporter of asbestos. Our Climate Forum in Almaty with representatives of 4 Central Asian governments and the European Commission. Furthermore the roundtable debate with Romanian and Bulgarian decision makers and the European Commission in Sofia in March, on how to provide safe sanitation for low income rural communities, whilst complying with EU regulations was a highlight, as was the Toys Conference in Paris in November with French and European parliamentarians and business representatives on how to go beyond the current inadequate toys legislation to protect our children. WECF was also elected to represent the women's major group in the preparations of the upcoming Rio+20 summit on sustainable development, and we are very glad that more than 100 women-led organisations from all continents and sectors have now joined us in the Women Rio+20 Steering Committee, with whom we have published policy recommendations on gender and the green economy.

WECF has been working since the first Earth Summit in 1992 for a healthy environment for all. With the global economic crisis persevering in 2010, the accelerating climate change and persistent poverty and inequality it has been and is even more important that we gather forces as a network together with our partners, to meet the challenges facing us in the years to come; to continue to empower and support women and men all over the world to gain access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation, energy and food, whilst respecting their human rights and promoting gender equality as a tool of development. We're ready for this challenge.

WECF provides a network, platform and tools for global citizens, women and men, who want to work together for a fair, healthy and safer world for all.

Will you join us?

Sascha Gabizon
Executive Director WECF



“Taking action for a fair, healthy and safer world for all,,

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Working for a Healthy Environment for All – WECF in short

WECF's roots

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is a network of over a 100 organizations and several hundred individual members who are concerned with promoting a healthy environment for all and strengthening the role of women and promoting a gender approach in environment and sustainable development policy and implementation at local, regional, national and international level. Historically many WECF members are mainly from European, Caucasus, Central Asian and Balkan countries, but membership is open to organizations worldwide.

WECF was officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands following an initiative of European women to work together on sustainable development with a special focus on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, following the 1992 Rio Summit. Women from the European region who participated in the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, agreed to create the network WECF, as they recognized the catalyzing role women play in sustainable development, as defined in the United Nations report "Our Common Future". The philosophy of WECF has always been to enable the local project partners and network members to conduct advocacy work themselves with support from WECF, whether at local, national or international level, thus giving a voice to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work proved to be successful and became one of the strong points of the WECF network.

Why Women

During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 women were defined as a "major group" in sustainable development and environmental policy. But despite this fact, women continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty and the effects of the environmental degradation and are still not equally involved in policy

processes. The potential of women as agents of change and as important stakeholders is often neglected. The reason for this is that the gender divide, due to different roles and tasks of women and men, is still great and that discrimination against women has not yet been eliminated in many countries. Women often have different priorities and are often more engaged in issues related to health and sustainable livelihoods. This diversity of views and concerns needs to be reflected in policy making. WECF wants to pave the way for increased public participation in general, and women's participation in particular, in policy making on development, environmental and health.

Why Europe?

Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and the EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia), in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the new republics faced many problems. There are many challenges in the new EU member states and neighboring countries. Health problems and poverty in rural areas persist and in some areas are worsening due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management.

WECF's work in Europe and EECCA region

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development with over 100 member organizations in 40 countries of the EU, EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), SEE, as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan. WECF develops innovative solutions for sustainable development adjusted to the local culture, market and climate, based on local needs, and brings the lessons learned to policy makers and into regional policy processes.

WECF's work worldwide

WECF empowers its member organisations to bring their policy recommendations to international policy makers and into glo-

bal policy processes. WECF builds the capacity of international women's organisations and environmental organisations: In the context of our work on Climate Justice, Asbestos, Toxic Toys and Rio+20 we are working together with partners from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Latin-America, Africa and Asia, as well as with strategic partners with expertise on women's economic empowerment, green and equitable economic development and international agreements.

Our Mission

WECF works for a healthy environment for all, for an equitable and sustainable future. WECF strives for balancing environment, health and economy, taking into account the needs and perspectives of men and women. We enable women and men to participate at local and global level in policy processes for sustainable development. Our network's activities are based on our partners' own visions and needs. WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.

Governance and Organisation

WECF is coordinated through WECF organizations in the Netherlands (Utrecht), Germany (Munich), and France (Annemasse), and has about 40 part-time staff members. Each national organization has a board and national member organizations, which work in a coordinated manner and present a consolidated account and overall workplan and strategy. WECF has an international Board of Trustees (BoT), bearing the final responsibility for the strategic and financial management of the foundation. The International Advisory Board (IAB) represents WECF's member organisations. The IAB works in an advisory capacity on strategic issues and organisational development. IAB members (currently 11) are elected by the members of WECF. The Board of Trustees maintains close connections with the IAB by mutual representation at each other's meetings.

WECF implements projects with its partners

WECF implements projects with its partners which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, which is often inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grass roots level and representing women's perspectives. Policy work is at national, European, UN and other international policy process levels.

WECF cooperates with other (network) organizations and research institutes such as the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), the Hamburg Technical University, and also with private companies such as Solar Partner Sud in Germany.

Next to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WECF's donors include the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the Rhône-Alpes region (France), European Commission (DG Environment and EuropeAid), the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Development and the Environment (VROM), Fondation Lemarchand, Fondation France Libertés (France) and the Stefan Batory Foun-

ation (Poland). Natracare is an example of a private sector company supporting WECF activities.

Issues & Projects

Our project work brings safe ecological solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, sanitation, energy and food production. Our policy work at national, European, UN and international level brings women's perspectives to policymakers.

WECF works at five key issues

1. **Safe chemicals & adequate provision of health for all;**
2. **Safe and sustainable energy & climate protection for all;**
3. **Safe food production & sustainable rural development for all;**
4. **Safe water and sustainable sanitation for all;**
5. **Gender equity in sustainable development, environmental rights and public participation.**

WECF's strategic approach

Building on our work in the EU and EECCA region since 1994, WECF has developed a strategic approach to lead us into the next decade and set key goals for the organisation in the period 2010- 2015 within the wider context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goals 1, 3 and 7.

WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities. The right of access by everyone to safe and sustainable resources: energy, water and food. The right to a daily environment free of hazardous chemicals and pollutants. The responsibilities of all to protect our natural resources and live within the boundaries of the earth's carrying capacity.

WECF's strategic approach is people focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts.

Keywords are poverty reduction in rural areas, small-scale, affordable technologies, public participation, gender equality and human rights.



Improving the quality of life in rural areas of the EECCA region and Afghanistan



Technical solutions are adapted to locally available materials



Demonstrating sustainable ecological tools



16.800 village people from Ukraine to Tajikistan now have access to sustainable safe and hygienic sanitation



There's no need to use chemical fertilizers or pesticides any more



The first straw bale building in the region is being constructed



Demonstrating the integration of ecological sanitation



Priority: school sanitation



Outreach and improving local and regional policies



Demonstrations and workshops in the villages

Results 2010 in short

The programme with the biggest impact in 2010 was the final year of the WECF Empowerment and Local Action Program. It aspired to lead to a "direct poverty reduction impact for 18.000 poor citizens in Afghanistan and the EECCA region from a reduction of health costs, services costs and improved agricultural returns". This goal has been reached. The technical approaches demonstrated through the ELA Programme "poverty elimination" reduced poverty on several levels, demonstrating sustainable ecological tools for improving the quality of life in the rural regions of the EECCA region and Afghanistan in a sustainable and ecological way. All technical solutions are adapted to the locally available materials, craftsmanship, and budgets/economic situation.

16.800 village people from Ukraine to Tajikistan now have access to sustainable sanitation with new toilets: 844 household and 39 schools are now using toilets with the urine diverting dry toilets – UDDT – methodology. The urine and the faeces are sanitized and reused as fertilizer in agriculture. The urine that can be collected with these toilets is enough to fertilize about 280 ha of land. In total 20.989 people now have improved access to drinking water who before had to fetch their water from far away or had to rely on unsafe sources near their homes. The percentage of people who prepare compost rose in the project villages from 10% to about 66% of the village population. About 3000 people, considerably more than before the project, now compost and practice a sustainable strategy for removing organic waste (instead of e.g. burning leaves) and obtaining organic fertilizer. About 3.500 people now apply sustainable agriculture methods, methods, no longer using chemical fertilizers or pesticides, thus contributing to food security

and a healthy environment in their communities. 1825 people now use 147 solar energy installations to heat water, dry fruit; or biogas for cooking, or a newly insulated house to reduce heating costs and secure warm rooms in winter.

Capacity of partners and beneficiaries built

Georgia and Kyrgyzstan were the anchor countries of the ELA program, with strong national networks and cooperation among WECF ELA partners and with authorities and stakeholders. The networks of the ELA partner organizations acquired additional strength in regions and countries. WECF facilitated exchange of knowledge and experience of ELA partners. Especially noteworthy is the meeting of all ELA partners in Ukraine near Odessa in September 2010. As one partner from Tajikistan put it: „The very good thing about WECF is that WECF raises partners like children in many aspects (build their capacity) and do not leave them by themselves alone". A partner from Kyrgyzstan stated: "One plus of WECF is, that it gives all organizations good possibilities to work in their own field. It is smart because other donors often create competition. Every organization can work according to their own vision. After the ELA program I can say that partner organizations are my friends and not my rivals." Over the three years, WECF conducted 58 trainings with a total of 907 participants for partner organizations (512 participants) and beneficiaries, covering the 4 thematic areas. Partners in turn conducted trainings for 73.489 participants, most for UDDT maintenance and use, sanitation, hygiene and health (43.741). Partners prepared about 200 publications in 13 local languages, with a total print run of 112.896, which reached about half a

million readers. A total of 425 news items in different types of media (newspapers, radio, TV, internet) covered the programme activities in the 10 partner countries, 57 of them TV broadcasts. 49 of these broadcasts reached an audience of more than 15 Million people over the three years.

Integrated solutions demonstrated

Integrated demonstration and education centers or sites serving demonstration purpose (e.g. farms) bring everything together. In Georgia, the RCDA demonstration center in Misaktsieli near Tbilisi houses a meeting room and accommodation for about 20 people; a solar greenhouse made of straw bales (the first straw bale building in the region), different kinds of solar collectors heating shower water for the bathroom with UDDT, solar dryers, solar cookers, a biogas plant, indoor UDDT and agricultural demonstration plots. It hosts more than 2000 visitors per year and international organisations use its services. A farm nearby, managed by the farmer in cooperation with ELA partner SEMA, make use of organic agriculture, UDDT, biogas and warm water provided by solar collectors. The farm is receiving many visitors each year. Comparable farms are located in South Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, demonstrating the integration of ecological sanitation, sustainable agriculture, and in some cases solar energy (collectors). In South Kazakhstan in the town of Lenger, the new demonstration centre of UGAM combines UDDT with a demonstration garden for fertilizer application, solar collectors for warm water and heating, small hydropower for electricity, insulation, and underfloor heating. Ivanovka village in Kyrgyzstan and Bolduresti village in Moldova provide numerous

household UDDTs, a school UDDT, and an agricultural centre with demonstration fields.

Outreach and improving policies

Partners took part in local, regional and national political processes, ranging from cooperation with local authorities to receive their support of project activities, to participation in the national policy dialogue on water in Kyrgyzstan for example or the Water and Health Protocol target setting commissions in Armenia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan. ELA partners presented their project activities at local, national, and international conferences, e.g. the World Water Forum in 2009 in Istanbul, and the UNFCCC climate summit in Copenhagen, where WECF organised official sessions and exhibitions. WECF and local partners organised high level policy conferences in the countries themselves, e.g. a high level sanitation conference in Kyrgyzstan in 2008, a conference on development without hazardous construction materials (such as asbestos or POPs) in April 2009 in Kazakhstan, a regional water conference in Odessa, Ukraine in October 2009, and a regional Caucasus Climate high level conference in Tbilisi in November 2009. They thus presented the best practices and discussed policy improvement with political decision makers from their regions and internationally. At conferences or in direct contact with authorities, ELA partners issued 18 policy recommendations to their national governments or regional or local authorities, 8 of which were endorsed and incorporated into policies on the local, regional, or national level. At least 9 new projects by ELA partners funded by different donors are currently continuing the work started with ELA.

WECF Issues

Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

WECF demonstrates affordable sanitation systems in rural areas and particularly promotes access to safe water and sanitation for rural schools. WECF raises awareness and mobilises citizens for sustainable water and wastewater management and promotes community based and affordable water supply systems for rural areas without a centralised drinking water supply. WECF and partners represent civil society in the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health process and advocate for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resource and river basin management. WECF results to date:

- 500 people trained
- 960 household sanitation systems (UDDT)
- 50 school toilet buildings (UDDT)
- 120 drinking water supply systems
- 50 soil filters for wastewater treatment for households and schools
- 20.000 people/children with access to sanitation
- 35.000 people/children with access to water
- 300.000 people's water quality tested



Safe Chemicals for All

WECF and its members advocate for non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally and for the implementation of three principles: polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle, highlighting the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation. WECF raises awareness amongst consumers and encourages them to ask questions about the products they purchase and use. The core awareness raising programme is "Nesting – creating a safe indoor environment for your baby" which combines online media in 8 languages, workshops for parents and professionals, information guides and product databases and product testing. The consumer information is flanked by policy advocacy through the international "toxic free toys" campaign. WECF does not only focus on toxic chemicals in consumer products. In Armenia, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine old pesticide stockpiles pose a serious threat to the environment and public health. Partner organizations try to attract attention to these problems and cooperate with the local and national authorities to isolate or remove the stockpiles and reduce exposure for humans, animals and the environment. WECF results to date:

- 40 Nesting trainers (France and the Netherlands)
- 120 Nesting workshops organized since 2009
- 1 hospitals are training medical staff on "nesting"
- 500 parents educated on creating a safe environment for their new born child
- 700 parents have been informed and are motivated to create a safe environment for their new born
- 500.000 people have been reached via media channels and websites



Cross Cutting Issue: Gender Equality, Environmental Rights and Public Participation for All

WECF believes that the right to a healthy environment is the birthright of every person regardless of gender, race, colour, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. In many instances, those groups in society that are least empowered, are most likely to suffer from environmental pollution, and lacking access to safe water and sanitation, e.g. the Roma communities living near (toxic) waste dumpsites.

WECF's overall goal "Achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development for all" can only be reached by integrating human rights and gender perspectives into all policies. Women and men are differently affected by environmental pollution and the lack of basic resources, such as water. Women's views, knowledge and capacity to work towards a sustainable development and a healthy environment have to be taken into account when looking for local as well as global answers.



Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All

Climate change is the biggest environmental issue of our time and poses a serious and global threat to sustainable development, poverty elimination and peace and human rights in the coming decades. Climate change is inextricably linked with energy concerns as two thirds of global emissions come from energy consumption. WECF implements interrelated programmes on both issues. WECF aims to provide safe, affordable and renewable energy for low income households, bringing successful pilot projects to scale via innovative financial instruments. WECF promotes a switch away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralised alternatives. WECF empowers vulnerable groups to benefit from climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes. Through its role as co-coordinator of the 'women and gender constituency' at the climate negotiations, WECF promotes gender-positive energy solutions and integrates a gender perspective into global UN climate change negotiations. WECF results to date:

- 1 feasibility study for climate financing household renewable energy systems in EECCA
- 4 interventions at the UN climate change meetings, 2 submissions to UNFCCC, 1 on civil society participation and 1 on improving the financial instrument CDM
- 5 rural resource centers providing training
- 6 internships at a German solar company for WECF members from Caucasus and Central Asia
- 7 French solar energy students supporting partners in Caucasus and Central Asia
- 70 people trained on solar warm water heating
- 500 women using solar fruit driers
- 2.000 women and men using solar collectors for hot water and solar fruit driers



Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All

WECF's overall goal for Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development is that by 2020 all children, women and men have access to safe, regional, diverse and affordable food, free of hazardous chemicals, nano-particles and GMOs, based on fair trade and produced in harmony with nature and landscape, protecting water, soil, air and biodiversity. WECF implements projects which aim at closing the loop, in which waste from one process becomes a resource for another process. In particular, WECF demonstrates safe reuse of urine as fertilizer in agriculture, and use of wastewater and faeces for biogas production. WECF members train other members on making plant-based tinctures against pests in horticulture, others on setting up local economic value chains based on cooperation between farmers and consumers. Through these demonstration projects, WECF promotes examples of sustainable and organic farming that:

- provides healthier food;
 - improves the livelihoods of rural people (nutrition, knowledge and well being)
 - protects natural resources and ecosystems.
- WECF results to date:

- 1 Mobile exhibition 'diverse apples' toured 10 townhalls
- 3 language DVD 'Women for Diversity'
- 2 rural women savings and loans groups created
- 4 biogas systems demonstrated
- 150 farmers, mayors and rural organizations from 4 countries involved in exchange visits
- 280 ha of land can be fertilized with sanitized urine
- 3.000 rural people started composting
- 3.500 people now apply sustainable agriculture methods





International Campaigns & Events

“ Via our projects on water and sanitation in rural areas and in schools, we indirectly contribute to the increase in the number of girls attending school and empower women for the advancement of gender equality.

Natalia Dejean, Coordinator and Fundraising officer

International Campaigns and Events



Women's Participation in Rio+20 and Greening the Economy, p. 21



Climate Change talks", Bonn, p. 26



Asbestos: A silent killer – high level international expert conference in Moscow, p. 23



The right to water and sanitation – conference with the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council, Kyrgystan, p. 23



The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, Italy, 10-12 March 2010, p. 27



Nuclear Power is not a Solution to Climate Change Conference Munich, p 24



International "Nesting" programme-Information stand, Italy, p. 27



UNEP Government Council Meeting – Bali, p. 28



Financial responsibilities and transparency are considered vital for all projects; by staff and partners! In what I consider excellent teamwork together we are able to show to all our stakeholders that we are financially reliable. The stakeholders are important to us, we could not do it alone. They are the donors, the partners, our suppliers and experts, all personnel involved and last but not least all members of civil society!

Lies de Bloois, Financial controller of WECF

Campaigns



1. The right to water and sanitation – at home and in school

Worldwide 2,8 billion people lack safe sanitation, 1 billion safe drinking water. In the EU and EECCA region nearly 140 million people still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply and even more people do not have access to adequate sanitation. According to the best estimates of the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 13,000 children under the age of 14 die every year from water-related diarrhoea, mostly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high; and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. Also in the Western part of the region where access to water and sanitation are of lesser concern, a range of pollutants, including nutrients, metals, pesticides, microbes, industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical products have adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems or raise concerns for public health.

The UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. It aims to attain access to safe drinking water and provision of sanitation for everyone. The "Protocol on Water and Health" (PWH) is an instrument in the European region binding under international law that aims to protect public health from water caused diseases. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are an important partner for the authorities.

Human Right to water and sanitation In July 2010 the UN General Assembly recognised the human right to water and sanitation for the first time. The right was affirmed by a resolution of the Human Rights

Council in October and it is now declared to be legally binding. These were important moments for the WECF network since "water and sanitation" is one of WECF's core areas of work. However, much more work needs to be done. Women and children are the most vulnerable groups suffering from the access to water resources and sanitation facilities. The Protocol is a good tool with which the human right to water and sanitation can be implemented at home and in schools in the EU and EECCA region. In 2010 for the Protocol on W&H, WECF organized a conference in Bucharest on how to strengthen public participation in the implementation of the right to water, in cooperation with the Romanian government. In October 2010, WECF and its member organization KAWS from Kyrgyzstan were invited to recommend criteria for implementation of the Right to Water and Sanitation, in a conference with the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council. In November 2010, during the 2nd Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol W&H, WECF presented a proposal to implement a part of the 3 year work programme of the protocol, focusing on guidelines on small scale sanitation, together with the governments of Germany and Czech Republic.

5 year drive for sustainable sanitation and WASH in School Campaign In December 2010 the UN General Assembly agreed on a resolution for the 5 year drive for sustainable sanitation, under the leadership of UNSGAB (UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation). WECF has contributed to the development of key messages for the 5 year drive, and advised to focus in one of the 5 years on sustainable sanitation in schools. Many schools in rural areas in the world do not have safe toilets for their pupils. According to WECF monitoring and evaluation of the 50 school toilet buildings demonstrated in the EECCA region, safe sanitation is a key reason for increased girls school attendance. Unfortunately, school sanitation is excluded from the indicators of the Millennium Development Goal and does not receive sufficient political attention. WECF advocates with partners world wide to make school sanitation a policy priority. WECF contributes to the WASH in school campaign of UNICEF.

Location: International
Donor: German Environmental Agency (UBA)
Contact: WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, Earth Forever Foundation Bulgaria, MAMA-86 Ukraine, KAWS Kyrgyzstan, German Toilet Organisation



2. Women's Participation in Rio+20 and Greening the Economy

Campaign: The United Nations General Assembly has decided to hold a follow-up to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro (which is commonly known as the 'Earth Summit'). Brazil has again agreed to be the host. The 'UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012' will take place from 4 – 6 of June in Rio de Janeiro. WECF has been co-organizing the women's input in the preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 - Rio + 20.

The 1992 Earth Summit brought the need for sustainable development to the global agenda, led to a number of key Conventions designed to reduce environmental degradation and limit the impacts of climate change, and to move the world towards fair and green development and eradication of poverty. The Earth Summit also led to Agenda21, in which women were - for the first time - defined as one of the major groups, with a critical role to play in the formulation and implementation of policies for sustainable development. Many of the women-led environmental and development organisations which were created in preparation for the 1992 Earth Summit are now joining forces to work together to create a global women's movement for equitable and green development, with women as leaders and catalysts for change. WECF is facilitating the Women Rio+20 Steering committee together with Voices of African Mothers and represents the women's organizations towards the secretariat and bureau of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. WECF cooperates closely with UNEP on its Green Economy and International Environmental Governance programmes, and with UNWOMEN on preparations of Rio+20.

Location: International
Donor: German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety
Partners: VAM - Voices of African mothers, WEDO, ENERGIA, WOCAN, Global Forest Coalition, Earth Care Africa, Earth Day Network and many other regional and global networks

What is at Stake at Rio+20 in 2012? The 1992 Earth Summit led to worldwide recognition that the current development model is not sustainable and led to historic Conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Rio+20 will need to reform our global environmental and development governance, to ensure that sustainable development becomes the leading paradigm for international, national and local policy makers. It will need to produce international agreements to implement sustainable development, based on green, just and equitable economic indicators and tools.

A farmer from Central Asia: "Because I used urine, my potato harvest increased, and you could see that the leaves are greener".



3. International “Nesting” programme – A Healthy Environment for Healthy Children

Helping parents to create a safe and healthy environment for their newborns The ‘Nesting’ programme informs parents of young children on how to create a healthier and safer environment for their newborn baby. Nesting informs via a web platform in 8 languages, via publications and workshops and through training sessions for medical professionals and trainers. The focus is on improving quality of the air and environment inside homes and in day care centres, and describes the way in which products such as furniture and carpeting, cleaning agents and baby care products can affect indoor air quality. In 2010, Nesting project international evolved significantly towards an even more elaborated project, targeting not only future and new parents, but also health and child professionals, who are primary actors to ensure that healthy environments are part of public health policies in everyday life.

Project Nesting (www.projectnesting.org) provides support to parents who want to be able to choose renovation materials, furniture and baby-products that are safe and healthy for their newborn child. In fact babies and young children spend 90% of their time indoor, where the air quality is generally much more polluted than outdoors. This fact is recognized by many countries as a major public health issue. The campaign aims at providing new parents and professionals in child health and childcare with precise information and helpful practical advice so that they can make informed choices for healthier products and adopt new practices. An environment free of hazardous chemicals, tobacco smoke and mould and a space with safe furniture becomes a priority. It is in such times of transition that parents are more critical of their behavioural patterns. They are more likely to change to environmentally friendly, healthier and safer products in order to protect the health of their newborn. The Nesting project provides them with positive tips and increases the awareness of parents regarding specific information as well as suggesting alternative solutions.

Countries: Germany, UK, Netherlands, Greece, Germany, Hungary, France, Estonia, Spain

Donors: European Commission DG-Environment, Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, German Environment Agency (UBA)

Partners: Clean Up Greece, Large Families Association Hungary, WECF France, WECF UK, WECF Netherlands, WECF Germany

Interactive website, publications, press and parents workshops

An interactive website exists in 8 languages to educate and mobilize new parents to change to sustainable and safe consumption patterns providing information on indoor pollution as well as environmentally safe solutions. In the course of 2010 an Estonian version was added, in addition to Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Greek, Hungarian and English. Due to differences in mentality and local baby-culture, the website content is culturally sensitive and differs per country. Guides for parents, day care staff and health professionals have been published, regular press releases and product databases, interviews with companies producing non toxic alternative children’s products are presented as web videos, and people are trained to give workshops to parents. Special attention is given to reducing children exposure to chemicals suspected to be carcinogenic and hormone disrupting, in particular Bisphenol-A and Phthalates, and and to nano materials which can pass through the blood barrier and enter into the center of cells.



4. International Safe Toys Coalition – toxic free products for children

The “Safe Toys Coalition” aims to protect children’s health by striving for a world free of toxic and unsafe toys. The coalition was created by WECF and Eco Accord, alongside a group of international health and environment non-governmental organisations, who formed a new working group to ensure safe toys for the healthy future of children. The “Safe Toys Coalition” aims to protect children’s health by striving for a world free of toxic and unsafe toys. They address decision makers, producers, retailers and the public on national, regional and international level and help consumers to make informed decisions about the products they buy. The campaign is aimed at anyone or any organisation concerned or working in the area of children’s environment and health. If you would like to become part of the Safe Toys Coalition, please send an email to Alexandra Caterbow.

The coalition has promoted their mission in 2010 at events on national and international level such as the international toy fair in Nuremberg, the SAICM working group on chemicals in products, the re-opening of the discussion on endocrine disruptors in the EU toys directive etc, and has called on national governments for safer, toxic-free toys. The coalition established a joint work plan of activities and published and disseminated the consumer guide on safe toys (already available in 11 languages including Chinese). The Safe Toys Coalition consists of the following NGOs: Eco Accord, Baltic Environmental Forum, Arnika, Clean up Greece, Journalists for children and women rights and environmental protection, Ekoloji Tarazlig, WECF. Information can be found on the special Safe Toys website with links to documents and publications, activities of NGOs on toys www.safetoycoalition.org.

Countries: International

Partners: Eco Accord, Baltic Environmental Forum, Arnika, Clean up Greece, Journalists for children and women rights and environmental protection, Ekoloji Tarazlig, other regional and global networks

Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu



5. Asbestos: A silent killer on a global scale!

Asbestos is banned in most industrialized countries, yet it is the biggest occupational killer worldwide. The International Labour Organization estimates asbestos causes 100.000 deaths globally every year through occupational exposure alone. This is truly a global epidemic with a preventable cause – asbestos can be easily substituted with safer and affordable alternatives.

There is scientific consensus based on conclusive proof that all types of asbestos are hazardous for human health. The International Agency for Cancer Research classifies asbestos as a proven human carcinogen. Asbestos exposure is associated with bronchial carcinoma (lung cancer) and mesothelioma (pleural or peritoneal malignant tumors), recently ovary cancer and cancer of the larynx have been added. In some cases, these diseases are observed even among people with a short-term asbestos exposures. The disease can lie dormant for years after exposure, but once activated, usually result in death of the patient in a short period of time.

WECF cooperates with partners internationally to advocate the addition of chrysotile asbestos to the list of prior informed consent of the Rotterdam Convention, only then can developing countries protect their markets from imports of asbestos. To this aim, WECF is co-facilitator of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance, an international alliance of NGOs which was successful in raising awareness in particular with delegates from Africa and Asia during the Rotterdam COP5 in 2010. Russia supported by other EECCA countries and Canada are the main countries blocking this decision. WECF organized a high level international expert conference in Moscow in 2010 with representatives of 5 Russian ministries, the head of the Rotterdam Convention and key international organizations to inform about the need for safer substitutes and legal measures to reduce asbestos.

Countries: International

Donors: European Commission, German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety

Partners: Eco-Accord Russia, MAMA-86 Harkiev Ukraine, Green Women Kazakhstan, BIOM Kyrgyzstan, the Centre for Ecological Problem Solving, Rural Community Development Center and Greens Movement Georgia, Ban Asbestos Coalition, Ecological Restorations



6. Nuclear Power is not a Solution to Climate Change – plug into renewables

WECF member organizations from nuclear disaster areas around Chernobyl, Mayak and Semipalatinsk, have from the early beginnings raised awareness about the unacceptable risks of nuclear industry. According to WECF, nuclear industry is a threat to our health, our environment and human rights - at every step of production. Research shows that nuclear energy is not a solution for climate change. Nuclear industry has lower CO₂ emissions than coal, but has higher CO₂ emissions than renewables, especially when grey energy is included. Nuclear energy companies have artificially reduced insurance for accidents. When accidents happen, the tax payer ends up paying the cost, financially, and often with their health. Nuclear industry has lobbied successfully for tax payers money, the bulk of European Research Funding still flows to the nuclear industry.

WECF publishes testimonies of communities effected by nuclear industry, showing the great threat it poses to health, environment, human rights and security. WECF works on practical projects to improve the health and environment of women and children – encountering severe health problems of populations living near uranium mines (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine). The same is reported from uranium mining areas in other regions of the world. The EU has to import uranium, and has so far not been able to assure that the uranium which it uses has not badly harmed local communities around the mines. Nuclear energy causes health problems. Radioactivity even in low doses is a risk for many illnesses like cancer and leukaemia. Even the most “advanced” countries in Europe are not able to guarantee total safe operations of their nuclear power plants (see the recent catastrophe which took place in Fukushima).

Countries: International

Donors: Private Donors

Partners: International nuclear free network, cooperation with hundreds of organizations and networks as WISE, The Nuclear-Free Future Award, die klima-allianz, Greenpeace, urgewald, Sortir du nucleaire, projekt21 plus, Ecodefense

WECF Germany awarded the Golden Nuclear Fuelrod Award for the most challenging comments made by 10 well known opinion leaders exposing their lack of knowledge on nuclear energy and its risks. The award was installed to attract attention to all sorts of unfounded remarks being made in public on the issue of nuclear energy, especially when nuclear energy was being portrayed as “sustainable”. Since the German elections in 2010 nuclear energy became a heated issue of public debate.

The Nuclear Question

In December 2010 WECF Germany e.V. and the Bavaria forum of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation organised a panel discussion on the effects of nuclear energy. Present were Natalia Manzurova, radio biologist from Russia, who cleaned up after the disaster at Chernobyl as a liquidator. Alain de Halleux, Belgian film director, whose work includes films about the working conditions in French nuclear power plants. And Gertrud Warta, the widow of a uranium worker in Wismuth, who has been fighting for 18 years so that the cancer her husband suffered from, can be recognized as an occupational disease.

WECF works together with international and national civil society organizations to put sustainable energy on top of the political agenda and to make sure that the priority is given to energy saving and efficiency. The renewable energy sector assures that our energy supply is competitive, secure and sustainable.



7. Women's Health and the Environment – halt to hormone disruptors

Campaign: WECF as the women's organization on health and environment has called on the EU over the past couple of years for a strategy on the primary prevention of (breast) cancer and the hazardous influence of endocrine disruptors on women's reproductive health. Two major publications were issued in Germany in 2010 to support the campaign, first the German version of the WECF publication 'Linking Breast cancer and our environment; is chemical exposure the missing link factor in the rise of the breast cancer epidemic?' and secondly the German version of the American scientific publication 'Girls Disrupted': "Gestörte Weiblichkeit".

Millions of girls and women worldwide suffer increasingly from early puberty, infertility and breast cancer. In Germany, for example, 15% of all couples are affected at least temporarily, from infertility and approximately one in ten women are suffering from breast cancer in Europe. But where does the increase in these diseases and reproductive disorders in women, come from? One explanation could be the increased exposure through endocrine or hormone like substances called endocrine disruptors. Alarmed by reports of a reduction in sperm count, caused the focus of research on endocrine disruptors to be solely on men. But when will science take into account the effects of endocrine disruptors on the female reproductive system? This mounting evidence highlights that the exposure to environmental contaminants is a major concern in relation to rising cases of breast cancer. The WECF campaign "The missing link" focuses on the current epidemic of breast cancer which cripples health budgets all over the EU and links it with chemical exposure. WECF would like to encourage all those responsible in politics and industry, who use chemicals that damage the health and affect the hormone system, to think about - in terms of the health of our society and future generations.

Countries: International

Donors: Private Donors

Partners: WECF France, WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, international members and partners



8. Climate Justice – mitigation and adaptation for vulnerable groups

Climate change is hitting the poorest the most. Our local partners working in poor communities across the world see this happening every day. When the draughts hit, it is the poor women farmers in Uganda who have nothing left when they lose their harvest, they have no savings to buy food and medicines. When the floods invade the villages in Afghanistan, it is the mud-huts of the poorest widows homes that collapse first, and with it, their small storage of rice for the winter months.

In Kyrgyzstan the terrible escalation of violence in 2010 was partly caused by social unrest about the 6-fold increase of energy prices, whereas many poor families already spent up to 30% of their available income on energy. Increasingly funds are becoming available to help countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. But these funds are not arriving in the poor communities; they are not accessible for widows and women-lead households.

WECF cooperates with partners in Africa, Asia and the EECCA region to assure that the voices of vulnerable groups are heard in the climate negotiations and proposes changes to the criteria for climate funding, to make sure they become accessible in particular to women, indigenous peoples and urban poor. WECF also cooperates with partners locally to help communities take “adaptation” and “mitigation” measures, and to share best practices with partners internationally, with a focus on creating sustainable livelihoods and employment for women.

Location: International

Donor: Private Donors, European Commission

Partners: Geres Afghanistan, Katachel Afghanistan, Global Forest Coalition, Alternative Technologies Uganda, Decentralized Environmental Solutions South Africa, Women's Action for Development India



Events



1. Contributing to the Climate Negotiations from a regional and gender perspective

In April, May, June and August 2010, the "Climate Change talks" took place in Bonn, Germany in preparation for the Climate Summit in Cancun. A WECF delegation of 5 people from Central Asia and Eastern Europe was present at all negotiation sessions. At the Cancun negotiations, WECF gave a much applauded intervention in the main negotiations on the need to keep nuclear energy out of climate funding mechanisms. WECF called on the need for stronger commitments to national and international CO₂ reduction targets, and for more equitable financial mechanisms and suggestions for sustainable energy development with a high-risk-technologies free (nuclear and CCS) future at all sessions and throughout the year.

WECF's climate protection recommendations especially included:

- Policies to upscale energy saving and renewable energy solutions for low income communities in the EU and EECCA region.
- The strong need to keep nuclear energy out of all climate protection instruments as it is a barrier to the necessary development of safe, effective, and affordable energy sources.
- The need for a gendersensitive and equitable climate regime, with the full respect of women's rights.

In October 2010, WECF organized a high level conference, the CAEFOC Forum, in Almaty Kazakhstan. The CAEFOC was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Environment of Kazakhstan, and included representatives from ministries in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Representatives of the United Nations Climate Change Convention Secretariat, the European Council and from key Central Asian institutions debated with representatives of Central Asian civil society organization on the specific needs for Central Asia, and the best strategy to follow in the global Climate Negotiations. The climate ambassador of Finland presented the specific needs for gender concerns.

Countries: Kazakhstan, Germany, Mexico

Donors: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, European Commission

Partners: WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, WECF France, CAN EECCA, Eco Forum Kazakhstan, Little Earth Tajikistan, UNISON Kyrgyzstan, BIOM Kyrgyzstan, Eco Defense Russia, Greens Movement Georgia



2. CSD 18: UN Commission for Sustainable Development 2010

WECF co-chaired the women's major group during the 18th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The UN CSD 18-19 focussed on the following issues:

- Transport
- Chemicals
- Waste Management
- Mining
- 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns

WECF was present with a delegation from the Netherlands, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Niger, Russia and the USA in New York from 3 - 14 May 2010. WECF organized 2 highly visible side-events.

The first side event focused on asbestos and its uninformed sales and use in developing countries, promoted by the major exporting countries Canada and Russia, and the need to add chrysotile asbestos to the list of prior informed consent of the Rotterdam Convention. Testimonies from asbestos damage to the economy and public health were given from around the world.

The second side event focused on the environmental and health damage from uranium mining, with testimonies from indigenous groups from India, Navaho (USA), Niger and Kazakhstan. The side event developed a call for a global mechanism to support in clean up of abandoned uranium mines, and liability and accountability measures for uranium companies operating uranium mines.

Location: USA, India, Niger, Kazakhstan

Donor: Heinrich Böll Foundation,

German Federal Ministry of Environment

Partners: WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, WECF France, Eco Forum Kazakhstan, Eco Accord Russia



3. The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, Italy, 10-12 March 2010

More than ever, children's health is at risk from a changing environment. In 2004, Ministers of Health and Environment of countries in the European, Caucasus and Central Asian region signed the "Children Environmental and Health Action Plan for Europe" (CEHAPE). Three years later, a competition of children's environmental health projects resulted in the successful „Good Practice Awards“ celebration.

Children's Environmental Health Award 2010: „Protecting children's health in a changing environment“

At the Conference of Ministers, entitled "Protecting Children's Health in a Changing Environment", eight new good practice projects were awarded and invited to present their activities to national delegates. The health impacts of environmental risk factors - inadequate water and sanitation, unsafe home and recreational environments, lack of spatial planning for physical activity, indoor and outdoor air pollution, and hazardous chemicals - are amplified by recent developments such as financial constraints, broader socioeconomic and gender inequalities and more frequent extreme climate events. They pose new challenges for health systems to reduce deaths and diseases through effective environmental health interventions.

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, organized by WHO/Europe and hosted by Italy, was the next milestone of the 20-year old European environment and health process. Focused on protecting children's health in a changing environment, the Conference drove Europe's agenda on emerging environmental health challenges for the years to come.

Countries: Italy

Donors: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria; Ministry of the Environment, Sweden; Danish Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), The Netherlands

Partners: HEAL, ISDE Austria, EcoForum

A unique European study, Test your Nest was conducted in the framework of WECF's Nesting project and paves the way for targeting specific pollutants impacting on children's health in indoor environments.

The European study "Test your Nest" was conducted by WECF (under the supervision of WECF France with the participation of WECF Germany, the Netherlands and partner Clean Up Greece) in partnership with the French National Consumer Institute (INC) its Magazine (60 Millions de Consommateurs) and an independent laboratory (Quad Lab). The recruiting campaign was launched in July 2009 in 4 countries, with the objective of measuring and comparing indoor air quality in newly renovated or furnished baby rooms, and presenting the results during Parma Ministerial Conference. Indoor air quality is one of the priorities of the CEHAPE. Indoor air pollutants have long been recognized as a major hazard for children's health, with some of them triggering asthma, allergies or sometimes cancer. More than 60 families in 4 countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece) took part in the study. All participants had newly renovated the room or bought new furniture. In 40% of the rooms, tests revealed levels of formaldehyde and total VOC (Volatile Organic compounds) above accepted guidelines. Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen, used in plywood, glues, etc. VOC, among them hydrocarbons, terpenes, alcohols, are substances known as allergens and irritants, some of them also have neurotoxic or carcinogenic properties.



4. UNEP governing Council Meeting – Bali: Greening the Economy and International Environmental Governance

The executive director of WECF, Sascha Gabizon, represented the Women's major group at the Governing Council Meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme in Bali, Indonesia. All 9 major groups took part as civil society representatives, in the meetings of the ministers of environment. The women's major group brought together women representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, who presented their concerns and policy recommendations, focusing on the main themes of the UNEP CG, the Green Economy and the reform of International Environmental Governance.

The WECF director co-chaired the Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum together with UNEP, in which over 100 civil society representatives prepared their input for the Governing Council and GMEF. As chair of UNEP's Facilitating Committee WECF's director also facilitated the participation of civil society experts as dialogue partners for the ministers in the high level round table meetings which focused on the Green Economy and reform of International Environmental Governance (IEG). One key issue is the use of fiscal instruments to reduce subsidies to unsustainable economic activities – one example are the hundreds of billions spent on fossil fuel and nuclear based energy – and instead reduce fiscal barriers for sustainable economic activities. At the same time, it is important to assure that the transition from the "brown" economy to the "green" economy is a 'fair' transition, and promotes economic opportunities for women as well. The focus of the IEG debates is on the need for a stronger global environmental governance looking at better synergies between UN organizations and strengthening of UNEP. Both issues are key on the agenda of the upcoming Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

In addition to its facilitation role for UNEP, WECF also organized a side-event together with Bali-Fokus on safe substitutes to asbestos for interested government representatives, as well as on the WECF 'nesting' programme.

Location: USA, India, Niger, Kazakhstan

Donor: Heinrich Böll Foundation, German Federal Ministry of Environment

Partners: WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, WECF France,

Eco Forum Kazakhstan, Eco Accord Russia



“ Before we got our ecosan toilet at school, we used a pit latrine that was located far away. On rainy and snowy days it was dangerous to get there and on cold days, we got sick most of the times and couldn't go to school. The toilet is not only very clean, but also has separate rooms for boys and girls. We are very happy.

School girl from the Gantchi district in Tajikistan, where WECF partner ASDAP NAU builds sustainable dry ecosan toilets



Countries & Projects

So many things I feel strongly about come together in my work for WECF. WECF helps to make parents aware of the necessity of a healthy environment for all, but especially for our children who are the most vulnerable.

Chantal Van den Bossche, Communications Manager WECF

Country Projects Overview in 2010

The Netherlands

Nano in baby's room



Moldova

Safe Sanitation for all

Ukraine

Health and Dignity for all



Azerbaijan

Solar collectors and solar water distillers for rural communities

France

The Nesting ateliers



Germany

Environmental Justice for All



Bulgaria

Wetland on the site of a children's home



Georgia

Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals



Kazakhstan

Environmental challenges on uranium and asbestos mining



Kyrgyzstan

Risks of asbestos and safer alternatives



Poland

Green Bridges Munich-Warsaw



WECF France

WECF France supports international WECF network projects, yet on the other hand, carries out projects at a national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below

Location: Annemasse, France

Donor: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL), Region Rhône-Alpes and FEDER, Ministry of foreign affairs of the Netherlands in Romania, Fondation France Libertés, Fondation Lemarchand, Fondation Ensemble, companies and private donors

Contact: Chemicals and Health

Nesting :

elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu

Water and sanitation:

natalia.dejean@wecf.eu

Agriculture, Energy and climate change:

anne.barre@wecf.eu



French Nesting campaign

Project Nesting in 2010: Nesting website (www.projetnesting.fr) attracted new visitors, with a constantly updated news section and special reports on emerging health and environment issues. Nesting parents workshops have developed significantly via the training of 10 new facilitators, and the hiring of a coordinator for the 18 certified and experienced facilitators. A catalogue of the thematic training sessions specifically developed for health and child professionals was published with the help of WECF's Experts Committee and trainers. Two new pocket guides on cleaning products and baby cosmetics were successfully launched and disseminated. WECF France also organized and supervised the Test your Nest European study on indoor air in newly renovated babyrooms.



French toxic free toys campaign

Advocacy for safe chemicals in 2010 The main event organized by WECF in this year was a **European symposium on "Toys and chemicals of concern: exploring solutions"** gathering around 15 speakers and some 100 participants. Two years after the adoption of the new Toys Safety Directive, the event focused on better understanding the risks linked to the presence of hazardous chemicals in toys. It also provided an update on existing regulations and explored substitution and innovation potentials within the toys industry in order to phase out several hazardous chemicals. Consumer concerns were also expressed via several consumer association representatives. This event received broad media attention, with national press, radio and TV.

At national, European and international level, WECF France participated in **advocacy activities** on toys ecolabel and environmental labeling, inflammability standards, biocides regulation, REACH, European environmental and health action plan, national and regional health and environment action plans, contributed to consultations launched by the EU and represented WECF during several UN meetings of Conventions on chemicals and health.



French Cooperation Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation: WECF France has built several partnerships on water and health and notably became member of the network PS-eau. WECF France has coordinated two field projects: "Safe sanitation, health and dignity" in Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania launched in October 2007 and financed by Fondation Ensemble and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which resulted in the construction of 13 school or public ecosan toilets and 100 private ecosan toilets. The second project lead by WECF France and financed by Fondation France Liberté is "Water and safe sanitation in Moldova" with partners in 13 Moldovan villages.



French projects Food and Rural Development

Agriculture: In June 2010, WECF France launched a working group with regional partners in France and Switzerland dedicated to promoting "Local and Sustainable Agriculture". This transboundary project is supported by the EU and Région Rhône-Alpes and will contribute to the installation of new agricultural enterprises based on ecological techniques and direct sales.



French Energy and Climate Change project

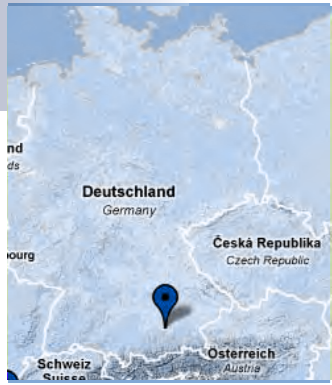
Energy: WECF France continued its practical exchange program on renewable energy with students from the Annecy University. During a 4-month internship by the German company Solar Partner and the Kirghiz NGO Social Union Agerech, a French student contributed to building affordable thermo solar systems for local rural populations. In June 2010 WECF France translated and adapted the publication "the Critical Question" focused on nuclear energy and its terrible consequences on human rights, health, and the environment. 2010 also marked WECF France's entry into the French NGO network RAC: Réseau Action Climat, with strong advocacy on Climate and Energy policy at national and international level.



French Gender projects

Gender: In 2010, WECF launched a project on "Gender equality: first step towards a non-violence culture" resulting in 32 workshops for 180 pupils participants and a closing conference with a gender expert. During International Women's Rights Day March 8th 2010, WECF and its partner With Women invited Nicole Fontaine, former President of the European Parliament to speak about gender equality at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

"A better partner then WECF is almost unimaginable" (Mechtat)



WECF Germany

WECF Germany supports international WECF network projects, yet on the other hand, carries out projects at a national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below.



Chemicals and Health

Nesting campaign: 'Nestbau' is the German version of the International Nesting Campaign, helping parents building a healthy environment for newborns. In 2010, the German Nesting project informed parents through continuously updated news. New web-linking partner organisations were acquired and positive feedback was received from the authorities.

Advocacy for non toxic children's products: the WECF chemical coordinator was invited to speak at a hearing of the German parliament commission on environment and health, to present concerns around toxic chemicals present in toys, and the lack of legal instruments to address this at national and European level. In December 2010 WECF organized together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation a symposium on toxic toys in Berlin, addressing multipliers and decision makers from politics and economy. The meeting was very well attended and covered by several media. A number of German television and news magazines dedicated articles to the WECF work on toxic free toys.

Location: Germany, Munich, Berlin

Donor: Private Donors, European Commission, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU), German Environmental Agency (UBA) Issues: Chemicals & Health, Energy & Climate, Food & Agriculture

Contact: johanna.hausmann@wecf.eu

"Umweltgerechtigkeit von Geburt an" (Environmental justice right from the beginning)

'Environmental justice right from the beginning' was a consultation programme for deprived families and migrant families run by WECF Germany in the vicinity of Berlin and Munich. As children from families with low socio-economic status are more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke, mould, lead, and disinfectants, the project primarily focussed on improving information and skills of the families affected by these issues with on site consultations and lectures.

Within this project WECF provided family centres in Berlin and Munich, continuous on-site consultations, consultations and lectures on simple low cost measures for families in order to create a healthy living environment at home. To reach the families in a more direct way, WECF and its partners, MAGs in Munich and Silvia Pleschka in Berlin also trained multipliers such as family nurses and midwives. WECF has published, in the framework of this project, bilingual informative brochures in Turkish/German, Russian/German (in 2009), Vietnamese/German, Arabic/German (digital version: Serbo-Croatian/German) (in 2010) on the topics "ecological cleaning" and "prevention and handling of mould".



WECF Germany 'nuclear is not a solution' campaign

WECF Germany actively cooperated with strategic partners in awareness raising campaigns on the costs and risks of nuclear energy and the need for a shift towards renewables. WECF published a monthly "Golden Fuelrod" award for uninformed remarks by policy makers on nuclear energy, which were widely picketed up in the German media. WECF also organized exhibition stands to inform the general public at a number of large events and demonstrations. The WECF publication "Critical Question" continued to sell well via professional bookstores and at public events. WECF organized together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Munich a public event with a Belgium documentary film maker who exposed the irresponsible practices of French nuclear power company EDF in dealing with subcontractors, and with one of the few remaining liquidators who worked on the Chernobyl accident.



WECF Germany – regional sustainable development

WECF Germany continued to share its best practices on creating regional economic value chains. WECF partner Unser Land hosted a visit for interested farmers and mayors from rural areas in Poland to exchange experience on sustainable agriculture, farmer-consumer cooperation, sustainable flood management and local production of renewable energy. Together with partner organization WLOE, WECF organized a workshop for the international year of biodiversity in Bonn. WECF president was one of the lead representatives of civil society taking part in the negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol during the Convention on Biological Diversity COP.



Alternative Sanitation Systems for Germany

WECF was nominated for the German Water Association (DWA) working group for public relations of the technical committee „New Alternative Sanitation Systems“ (KA-1). The working group, with input from WECF sanitation coordinator, published the brochure 'Do we need new alternative sanitation systems in Germany?' The publication is aimed at wastewater professionals in Germany to raise awareness for new sanitation systems. There is a need for alternative systems for two reasons:

1. Several regions in Germany and other industrialised nations are experiencing falling population numbers („demographic change“). The result is that in these regions, sewers and treatment plants have become oversized which leads to higher maintenance costs, increased operational problems and rising sewage charges.
2. Rapid urbanisation and increased population growth is occurring globally. More and more people are looking to take part in ‚western‘ prosperity and are thus changing their consumption habits, which is in part resulting in an increased demand for agricultural fertiliser. Phosphorous resources are on the decline. It is neither possible nor desirable to implement conventional water-borne, centrally treated sewage system globally, due to the relative high cost and non-economic use of resources. Urine is an excellent natural fertilizer and source of phosphorous; it should be re-utilized in agriculture where possible.

WECF also continues to advocate with other German partners for increased funding for school sanitation in developing countries. WECF cooperates with the German Environment Agency on the implementation of the 3 year workprogramme of the Protocol on Water & Health (UNECE-WHO) with a focus on small scale sanitation and water supplies (see under 'international').



WECF Netherlands

The WECF Netherlands organisation is the oldest of the three WECF organisations, it supports international partners with expertise and project funding, it coordinates advocacy campaigns – with a focus on European legislation – and implements awareness raising and advocacy projects at national level, described here.



A healthy indoor environment for children

2010 started with two official Project Nesting start up meetings, one with partners from the field (midwives, green shops, sustainable websites) and one with the Nesting expert team. In October Nesting the Netherlands started off with the first workshop on baby-care for parents, the first of a series of ten to follow.

The WECF Netherlands 'Nesting' campaign has a group of scientists which advises on its work, including key professors in the area of pediatrics, endocrinology, chemicals etc. WECF also engages former MEPs as advisors for its policy advocacy. WECF Netherlands represents the European NGOs in the REACH Risk Assessment Committee. Through the Dutch "Nesting – a safe environment for your newborn child" project, WECF has outreach and awareness raising activities – exhibition stands at commercial baby product fairs, website and blogs, publications and newsletters – which reach over 100,000 interested people from the general public and policy makers annually.

Nesting the Netherlands successfully gained attention for the continuing problem of toxic chemicals in everyday products. She did this amongst other things, by appearing on TV on a national level, focusing on toys, and by organizing workshops and dialogue on a regional level. Unlike the situation in countries like Germany and France, awareness in the Netherlands is very low, and WECF is one of the very few NGO's working on this subject

Countries: Netherlands, Belgium

Donors: Nano-podium (funded by Ministry of ELI and VROM), Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, private donors

Contact: johanna.hausmann@wecf.eu



"Nano in baby's room"

WECF was selected as one of the NGO's at the forefront of the discussion on nanotechnology, for a project funded by the Netherlands ministry of economic affairs to organise a debate with different sectors of society on nanotechnology, as part of the national 'Nano-podium' dialogue programme. The Nano-podium programme launched a national discussion on the ethical and social aspects of nanotechnologies. WECF carried out dialogue and awareness-raising activities for the general public with a focus on "Nano in the babyroom". WECF published video-interviews with retailers of baby products, asking how they addressed the risks related to nano materials. The WECF symposium on "Nano in the baby room" with 60 selected participants and key scientists and journalists, published its recommendations for the need for precautionary legislative measures. In 2011, these recommendations were taken to the European Commission council of ministers by the Dutch secretary of state.

Stronger precautionary legislation to protect children

WECF helped the Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU (COFACE) to develop policy recommendations on better environmental protection for children. This effort was part of the European Family Conference which was organised by COFACE in cooperation with Belgium's Secretary of State for Family Affairs. The two-day event was held at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels and organised in the spirit of the European Year 2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion. WECF helped to organise and facilitate the session on Public Health on October 15. The proposed Child Norm by the Flemish League of Families (Gezinsbond) and the good practice example of WECF's Project Nesting illustrated areas where stronger legislation is needed.



Development aid, poverty reduction and gender

WECF the Netherlands supported action to stop further cuts in Dutch international aid budget and joined a national campaign Enough=Enough. Following substantial budget cuts in the Dutch development aid budget many good programmes had to be stopped, and many developing countries which had been long-time partners of the Netherlands stopped receiving aid funding. One focus area for WECF the Netherlands is strengthening the gender focus for developing aid programmes. WECF became a member of the Dutch Gender Platform WO=MEN. Through this partnership WECF contributes to strengthening the gender focus in Dutch international policy, promoting a gender stand-alone policy.

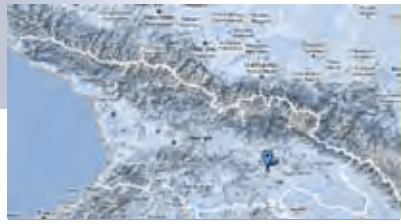


Dutch role in international climate and water policies and programmes

WECF Netherlands has built strong partnerships in the Dutch water sector. The university of Wageningen is a regular partner in projects, and is represented through one of WECF's board members who is specialized on new sanitation systems. The water utility of the city of Groningen is a partner of WECF; their household water filters for developing countries are being tested by WECF project partners. WECF has cooperated with the provincial authorities of Overijssel (water projects in Romania), with Aqua for All and the water board of Groot Salland and contributes to the Platform for Nutrient Reuse. On the Dutch role in international climate policies WECF has cooperated with its Climate Justice partners from Global Forest Coalition and others, promoting access to climate mitigation funding and technologies for vulnerable groups. WECF cooperates with partners WISE (World Information Service on Energy) and Greenpeace on awareness raising on the unacceptable costs and ethics of reinvesting in new nuclear power plants in the Netherlands, and on awareness raising on the damage done to local communities around uranium mines from which the Netherlands is supplied.

" We give women and men the global voice and the local tools they need to protect and improve their home environment **"**

Sabine Bock, Director Germany, Coordinator Safe Energy & Climate Change



Georgia



Georgia is one of the three republics in the South Caucasus. It is an ancient country and only recently gained its independence with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. The state integrity is challenged by Russian-supported breakaway republics, which are not recognised by the international community. With the non-violent replacement of a corrupt government during the Rose Revolution in 2003, Georgia was the first in a series of "Colour Revolutions" sweeping the NIS states. The new government initiated a series of political and economic reforms that earned it the label "number one economic reformer in the world". While the country is making significant progress, more than half of the population still live below the poverty line. Soil, air and water pollution lead to poor health conditions and decrease the quality of life for the Georgian people. Nearly 40% of the rural population lacks access to safe drinking water. Ninety percent of the sanitation facilities in rural areas are unsustainable septic tanks or pit latrines. WECF is working at improving the conditions for these people by educating the population, supporting the use of ecological sanitation and increasing the use of organic agriculture.

Donor: SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund UNEP, European Commission, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs MFSI

Partners: Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia, Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA), Georgian Ecological Agricultural Association (SEMA) Caucasus Environment, Center for Social Development Akhalsikhe, GEBMA, PAROS

Contact: anna.samwel@wecf.eu



Georgia: Creating local capacity for sustainable development

To build the capacity of local communities with a particular effort on empowering women WECF partner Greens Movement of Georgia/FoE Georgia started the project 'Create local capacity for sustainable development' in partnership with WECF and its Georgian partners, financed by the European Commission in Georgia. The goal of the project is capacity building and developing local entrepreneurial activities for improved access to safe energy, water and sanitation in 5 regions in Georgia, and increase public participation in environmental decision making by having the target groups formulate lessons learned and present their policy recommendations to policy makers, contributing to MDG's 1, 3 and 7.

Greens Movement is the lead applicant, and all Georgian WECF partners - Caucasus Environment, Center for Social Development Akhalsikhe, GEBMA, PAROS, RCDA, SEMA and WECF participate in the project. The partners have different specializations, and work in synergy, helping each other in their area of expertise, exchanging experience regularly.

The project is a continuation and upscaling of the Empowerment and Local Action program (ELA) 2008 - 2010. The successful approaches used in the ELA project are further refined and developed. Lessons learned are taken into account, while efforts are made to scale up the suitable technologies that were tested and demonstrated in ELA. The process of adoption of sustainable technologies in Georgia is to be continued.



Solar Collectors

So far Georgia did not produce solar warm-water collectors; they were imported for a high price. The WECF solar collector project has started to set up 5 resource center in the project regions, for the production and promotion of solar collectors and other sustainable technologies like solar fruit dryers and ecosan toilets. The resource centers partly function on a commercial bases in order to create access these alternative technologies for a wide range of the Georgian population. In order to ensure high quality of the first locally produced solar collectors, 4 Georgian experts have being trained by the German company 'Solar Partners Sued' (<http://www.zukunft-sonne.de>) in Kienberg, Bavaria during a practical internship of 3 weeks. Solar Partner Sued is a long time strategic partner of WECF. A socio-economic study about



the potential for upscaling of these technologies is being carried out in order to identify a suitable strategy for the resource centers. Start up meetings with the partners and communities have been carried out and the participating NGOs have been trained on Participatory Learning Appraisal and community mobilization. Training materials are developed jointly, based on the experience gained in the ELA project.



Resource Centre for Water, Sanitation & Renewable Energy opened in Western Georgia by RCDA

The regional Resource centre for Water, Sanitation and Renewable Energy was festively opened in Khamiskuri, Khobi district on 26th November 2010 by RCDA and local and regional authorities with participation of WECF, Greens Movement and other WECF partners. The newly opened regional resource centre aims to improve the quality of life of low income rural communities by giving them access to knowledge, training, hardware and financing mechanisms of sustainable energy, water and sanitation technologies. The objectives of the centre are to facilitate cooperation between different stakeholders in undertaking real action for sustainable rural development and poverty reduction, and strengthening their capacity for sustainable development. A solar warm water collector, different kinds of solar dryers, a briquetting machine, solar house heating, a solar cooker, composting and of course a urine diverting dry toilet are exposed and used at the centre, most of these technologies have been developed in cooperation with WECF within the ELA project. The centre is accessible to everyone and people can get advice and trainings for free. The center has already attracted many visitors including different regional authorities, television and radio, local NGOs as well as international donors.

The center will be developed further in future projects, and be an platform of change for the region, bringing stakeholders together, managing revolving funds and being the breeding ground for small businesses. The center will generate income with small businesses, providing services and offer meeting and workshop location to local and international NGOs. However for extending the center, grants are still aimed at.

Kindergarten toilets

On November 19th, 2010, international World Toilet Day, the first public Urine Diverting Dry Toilet in Western Georgia was festively opened in the kindergarten of Khamiskuri, Khobi district by RCDA and the local



authorities. Not only are the new toilets indoors, as opposed to the previously used pit latrines which were outside, but they are specifically adapted to children's use, have hand washing facilities and most importantly; they do not smell. In many rural areas of Georgia, children do not have access to adequate sanitation at home and at schools and kindergartens. They rely on dirty and old pit latrines that are unhygienic but especially very unhealthy. The pit latrines can usually be found far from school buildings, cold in the harsh Caucasian winters and posing considerable health risks especially for small children. Visiting the pit latrines is often so unhealthy that teachers and nurses rather prefer the children to defecate out in the open.

The kindergarten toilet in Khamiskuri was the 30th UDDT toilet for schools or kindergarten within the WECF network. The necessity of appropriate sanitary facilities is still not underlined enough by policy makers, health and school inspectors. On November 19, international World Toilet Day, the importance of adequate sanitation is celebrated and awareness is raised. Worldwide, there are 2.5 billion people who do not have access to proper sanitation facilities. WECF and its partners promote sustainable sanitation systems, accessible and affordable for the poor rural population, protecting their health, the environment and re-using the excreta as safe fertilizers in agriculture. UDDT systems for schools, public buildings have been built and are in use in many regions in the EECCA region and in Georgia and are seen as the most appropriate solution for rural areas with no centralized waste water management.



Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries

WECF and its Georgian partners have launched a project aimed at reducing exposure to specific hazardous chemicals (namely asbestos, heavy metals, biocides and pesticides) in Georgia, because they pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. The awareness of stakeholders and the rural population on the dangers of these materials is extremely low. The aim is to focus on the potential of implementing safer chemicals including non-chemical alternatives - tools for Georgia and the EECCA region. The specific objective of the project is to create awareness on the sanitary impact of hazardous chemicals used in construction and agriculture and to promote the implementation of safer, preferably non chemical alternatives.

A number of hazardous substances are used in construction and maintenance of buildings in the EECCA region. WECF partner NGOs have



long observed use of substances which are known to be immediately hazardous to human health, including uranium-mining waste, asbestos and lead-containing paints. Furthermore, other substances are used which pose no immediate health risk, but which are problematic once they need to be disposed of, such as chlorine based plastics such as PVC, chemically treated wood, flame retardants and various insulation materials, carpets, glues, etc. Asbestos and asbestos waste is a high risk for human health and the environment. The majority of the public is not informed about these dramatic health risks, thinking that chrysotile asbestos made in the EECCA region is safe. WECF's goal is to inform the population and demonstrate safer alternatives for safe management of pests in the house and in agriculture. The project documents the current state of practices on the use of hazardous substances in construction and agriculture in Georgia, introduces practical alternatives, develops training modules in Georgian and Russian together with training kits, and will produce two educational brochures about alternatives. By introducing practical alternatives to various stakeholders from government, business, agriculture, and civil society WECF provides the best practice examples for developing construction and agriculture in a healthier and more sustainable way. In addition, these practical pilots provide feedback for policy recommendations at national level. The results are going to be shared with the wider WECF network. The project is being managed by WECF and implemented by the three following Georgian partners: RCDA focusses on building materials and will conduct an inventory of current practices and information needs and develops together with WECF a training kit and a demonstration site on non-toxic low cost natural building materials. SEMA is an organic agricultural organization and works on alternatives for pesticides and integrated pest management to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides. A demonstration site at a local farm and a practical training kit is being developed. Greens Movement is an organization aiming to protect the environment, human and ethno-cultural surroundings according to the principles of sustainable development to establish ecologically safe technologies. Greens Movement is involved in research, inventories, capacity building and public awareness raising through media and communication campaigns, as well as influencing policy on national level. The project is funded by the SAICM Quick Start Programme, UNEP.



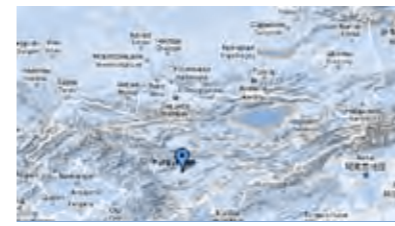
Pesticides and Biocides in Georgia

The project addresses both pesticides (used on crops to reduce pests) and biocides (used on non crops, e.g. on animals and the house to reduce pests). WECF partners have surveyed which pesticides are regularly used in Georgian agriculture. Several of them are banned in the EU or worldwide like synthetic Methyl Bromide (Bromomethyl)- a fumigant – mainly used as a soil sterilant, seed production and for cargo processing in vehicle, which is phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Many of the pesticides listed as used frequently in Georgia are known to have serious health and environmental impacts. Georgian law gives no clear responsibilities on chemical management, and control on imported pesticides is unsatisfactory. Several pesticides and biocides are illegally on the market, containing hazardous by-products. Users are not informed about the products they buy, the risks, proper use and alternatives. Such dangerous substances can be replaced by efficient alternatives such as pheromones and plant tinctures, which are available and increasingly used in agriculture in the EU, and/or made redundant by using crop rotation, intercropping and applying the principles of sustainable agriculture. During the project, WECF and its local partners implement sustainable agriculture and integrate pest management methods in pilot demonstration fields at local farmers, in order to demonstrate how pesticide use can be substantially reduced.



Sustainable resource management

The innovative strength of the project is to use an integrated approach: Urine and faeces collected in sustainable sanitation facilities are re used in agriculture as valuable resources. Agricultural organic materials are used for house insulation to increase energy efficiency as an alternative for hazardous building materials. Water protection is achieved by reducing hazardous pesticides in agriculture. Poverty reduction through capacity building and promotion of low cost efficient building materials and pesticides for rural communities are some of the results of the projects. WECF principles of 'closing the loop' and 'Cradle to Cradle' are used; materials produced are not regarded as a waste, but as a resource after their initial purpose has been fulfilled.



Kyrgyzstan

Located in Central Asia between China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan the small mountainous country covers nearly 200.000 square kilometres and has a population of 5.2 million. While Kyrgyzstan is rich in natural resources, it has a high potential for hydropower and large gold deposits, 40% of the population live below the poverty line. 70% of them live in rural areas. There has been a massive emigration of young people looking for a job, especially to neighboring countries like Russia. Fifty-five percent of the population works in the agricultural sector. Some agricultural areas witness increasing soil salinisation as the result of improper irrigation techniques.

Like many Central Asian countries Kyrgyzstan's citizens, especially in the rural areas, face acute water supply problems such as contamination and lack of access. Piped water supply has decreased compared to 2000. Water-borne diseases are common, increasing the poor health of the population. In rural areas, only 12% of the population has access to improved sanitation. WECF is focusing its work on improving the living conditions of the rural population by spreading the use of ecological sanitation, organic agriculture and health education. Kyrgyzstan has up till recently been one of the most stable democratic countries in Central Asia. However, during its first years of independence, the young republic has experienced many political shocks. In a short period of time, there have been two coups and bloody ethnic clashes that weakened economy and political structures that had been ineffective even before. After the peaceful Tulip Revolution that removed first Kyrgyz president Akaev in 2005, further peaceful demonstrations led to a new constitution and election of a new President and government by the parliament in 2006.

The second revolution took place in April 2010, when public upheaval led to the fall down of the government and the escape of the president - who was accused of being corrupt and criminal – abroad. A new temporary government came in place but was not prepared to deal with large scale provoked violence, leading to ethnic clashes in the South of the country. Thousands of people suffered and died. Officials say up to 2.000 civilians may have been killed during the riots in one month period. Many women and girls

Countries: Kyrgyzstan

Donor: European Commission, EuropeAID; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany

Partner: BIOM Kyrgyzstan



suffered from sexual abuse and infrastructure has been destroyed and many people including many refugees still have to deal with lack of access to housing and safe drinking water supply. Energy Poverty, or rather the lack of affordable energy is huge in this Central Asian country. It was one of the catalysts for the massive protests. Additionally, lack of energy also led to deterioration of public health and to poverty in general. This is exacerbated by climate change and the harsh winters. In Central Asia a large proportion of the population lives below the poverty line as established by the World Bank. Especially rural residents - particularly women and children - are vulnerable due to lack of energy resources. Some mountain areas are isolated for months from the rest of the month, with temperatures sinking to 50 degrees below zero. Central Asian Republics are also very dependent on each other in terms of their energy. Thus, the hydropower dam in the Kyrgyz Republic serves both as water reservoir for irrigation in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which leads to shortages as more electricity is generated. Local and sustainable energy sources are already therefore a source of sustainable development, climate and forest protection and health improvement.

WECF is doing its best to contribute to stable sustainable environmental development in the country by supporting its local partner organisations in helping people in rural areas to rebuild a safe and sustainable livelihoods. WECF has seven partner organizations in Kyrgyzstan, who are working on poverty reduction and improving basic living standards, including implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures such as domestic solar collectors, insulation of houses, water supply and sanitation for schools and rural households in the Central Asian republic and advocating work for enabling policies.



Kyrgyzstan: Asbestos in Kyrgyzstan

WECF and its local partner BIOM work on increasing awareness of the risks of asbestos and the benefits of safe alternatives. Asbestos and asbestos waste are hazardous to human health and the environment. Kyrgyzstan is one of world's biggest consumers of asbestos. Currently asbestos containing materials are used without restriction in public buildings like hospitals, schools and kindergartens, and in many other consumer products such as brakes and building materials. The people of Kyrgyzstan are exposed to asbestos in their homes and livelihoods, whilst also in contact with asbestos waste. There is



no evaluation of diseases caused by asbestos, the public and even many non-governmental organisations are not aware of hazardous health effects of asbestos. The topic is relevant to the public; especially for vulnerable groups like the poor and children, highly exposed groups like workers and inhabitants of waste areas because they suffer from exposure and do not even know that the surroundings they live might be highly dangerous. WECF and BIOM help to reduce the use of asbestos through raising awareness, provide information, building networks, strengthen citizen's capacities and develop solution strategies to present to state authorities. In 2010, WECF in cooperation with BIOM, Kyrgyzstan, prepared a High-Level Conference on Asbestos in Bishkek which took place in 2011 and conducted trainings in several cities of Kyrgyzstan with different multipliers, including NGOs. Biom carried out research and survey to independently assess the current situation of asbestos use and waste in Kyrgyzstan as no such information is available.



Support for rape victims after violence in Southern Kyrgyzstan

WECF and its Kyrgyz partners appealed for help and support for the victims of violence. Urgent help was needed to provide humanitarian aid and help the victims of rape. WECF and its Kyrgyz partners appealed for humanitarian aid and support for victims of violence. Women and children in particular are victims of this tragedy and, as confirmed by staff of WECF partner organizations and the International Red Cross, mass rapes of young women have taken place. The local WECF project facilitator, living in Bishkek at the time, became an eye witness of the mobs clashing with police in the capital. The worst situation occurred however in the South of the country.

Women victims of violence One of WECF's partner organizations is based in Osh, the city in the south, where many of the atrocities took place. Staff from WECF partner organisation CAAW (Central Asian Alliance for Water) told that many women and young girls were being raped but that officials were trying to keep this information out of the press to avoid any further eruptions of violence. WECF and CAAW launched a call for support for donations. CAAW provided humanitarian help for victims of violence. Money was transferred directly to CAAW, based in the city of Osh, as CAAW could help victims directly, with medical care and psychological support, and trying to find long term solutions for these women and girls. CAAW, the Central Asian Alli-

ance for Water and Public Fund Mehr-Shavkat, based in Osh, works on increasing the living standards of rural population by creating access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene education in the ethnical mixed rural communities of Southern Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and in Tajikistan, with a focus on women's participation.

Risk of water related diseases The violence has also resulted in a greater risk of infectious diseases. Dead bodies were found in the water supply resources and the risk of water related diseases is increasing. Support is therefore also needed for safe water supply. As many houses were burned down, rebuilding of the houses before winter is a priority, for which the interim president Mrs Rosa Otunbayeva hopes to provide financial support. Most international aid organisations had halted their activities during the week violence, which is why CAAW was almost the only local organisation providing urgent humanitarian aid.



Empowerment & Local Action programme – Solar collector Training conducted

WECF, its member 'Social Union Agerkech' and the Kyrgyz State Technical University organized and conducted a theoretical and practical trainings on construction of solar collectors in August 2010. After completion, 20 participants proudly presented their self made solar collector models.

The access to hot water is an issue of personal hygiene and comfort. For the rural population the hot water access implies a lot of difficulties, primarily, financial issues. People are forced to use expensive electricity or coal. Solar collector, constructed on the principle of thermo siphon, doesn't need any financial expenses during maintaining. Moreover, thermo siphon solar collector is a passive system, which means it doesn't use any electrical pumps. Thus, there isn't any necessity in additional electricity for an electrical pump. In such a country of intensive solar radiation and the solar collectors construction in such country is very cost-effective. SU "Agerkech" has built 3 types of solar collectors in Bakay-Ata village near Bishkek. The main goal was to construct solar collector, working with thermo-siphon principle and made from local materials. The rural population and low-income families without an access to electricity will have an opportunity to have hot water all year around. Kyrgyzstan has the potential to transform to a fossil-free country however efficient ways to implement new technologies are still lacking.



Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan is an ancient country, situated between the continents of Europe and Asia in the southeast of the Caucasus region. It is located on the western shores of the Caspian sea. It has borders with five countries; the Dagestan Republic of the Russian Federation in the north, Georgia in the north-west the Republic of Armenia and Turkey in the west, and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the south. There is approximately 800 km of coastline along the Caspian shore in the east. The population is about 9 million. About 12% of the population is made up of refugees and internally displaced people (IDP). Most of these people have a very poor standard of living, and are housed in temporary settlements in unsanitary conditions. In 1989 Azerbaijan was one of the first Soviet Republics after the Baltic States to declare its national sovereignty. Azerbaijan gained its formal independence from the Soviet Union on the 18th October 1991.

Azerbaijan: Remote Communities in Azerbaijan

WECF and its local partner EKOT are implementing a 2 year project 'Community Approaches to a Better Environment for All and Poverty Reduction in Out of Reach Communities'. The project is implemented in 6 rural communities in the Sabirabad, Saatli, Ismayilli and Shemakha regions of Azerbaijan. These communities suffer from water and energy shortage. The project aims at developing and demonstrating upscalable solutions in the area of improved water and sanitation management as well as energy provision and based on locally identified needs.

Activities in 2010

Community needs assessments were done in all 6 regions to identify community priorities and necessary solutions in terms of water, sanitation and energy problems. Training flyers were prepared by the project group to educate people in ecological sanitation, possible small scale technical solutions to use alternative source of energy at the household level (wind, solar, biogas) - cooking, heating water, drying fruits for sale, etc. The activities were mainly focused on rural women, because they are mainly responsible for collecting or buying fuel (wood or cow dung), household budget, housework and hygiene, in addition to their second burden of agricultural work. There are many female-

Countries: Azerbaijan

Donor: European Commission, Government of Finland

Partners: WECF Netherlands, EKOT Azerbaijan and Sustainable Future Finland

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headed households due to labour migration, (IFAD estimates that 40% of rural households in Azerbaijan are headed by women). Two Finnish Students from TAMK University of Applied Science (Finland) actively participated in the activities related to water, energy, health problems in project regions and started the development of Water Safety Plans together with beneficiary communities in June 2010. The project was jointly funded by Finland and the European Commission.

A three days training related to Water Safety Plans took place in 3 rural project communities. The trainings, implementing water safety plans, were organized by WECF and EKOT.

In April a study visit and training 'Introduction to alternative technologies for sustainable rural development took place for Azeri partner in Misaktsieli, Georgia. The training was organized and facilitated by WECF and RCDA from Georgia and EKOT EKOT (Ekoloji Tarazliq QHT) from Azerbaijan. Aim of the visit was to introduce to the Azeri participants alternative sustainable technologies which can be easily implemented in rural areas.



Solar Collectors

Three solar applications for rural households have been built during one of the training sessions in the villages Syguovshan, Sabirabat region, and Saatli. A solar warm water heater, a solar fruit and vegetable dryer and a solar water distiller were built. Experts from WECF member organization RCDA Georgia, trained the participants and EKOT staff and shared their experience and knowledge about the construction, operation and maintenance of the new built facilities. Saatli and Sabirabat regions are one of the hottest areas in Azerbaijan and have high number of sun hours, making them appropriate for applying solar systems which improve the livelihoods of the local communities. There is a lack of fire wood and people spend almost half of their monthly income on energy supply. Most people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, and solar fruit drying is an appropriate way to conserve fruits and vegetables for winter time or to add value for market selling.

The villagers in both regions depend for drinking water on irrigation channels, which have a high turbidity and are polluted with micro organisms. The newly built distiller will provide clean water for free as long as the sun shines. Simple ceramic filters provided by Water Utility of Groningen (NL) are being tested on effectiveness and acceptability on household level. The proposed technologies in this project are made as far as possible of local low cost materials and can be built by local people. After being installed, they are easy to maintain.



Belarus

Especially the Southern part of Belarus suffered badly from the radioactive fall-out after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Since the country became independent after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, Belarus has kept very close ties to Russia. The economy is largely state-managed in what authorities call "market socialism". Belarus has so far profited from Russian oil and gas at prices far below global market prices.

Soil pollution from heavy pesticides use decreases the health of the rural population. Although 100% of the countryside inhabitants have access to water sources the quality needs to be improved.

What Belarus is lacking more than anything else is the involvement of the general public in solving local community problems as well as the availability of positive visible examples of public participation. WECF and its local partners aim to improve the conditions for public participation by demonstrating the benefits for society. These examples also serve as motivation for the population to take actively part in local development activities and to support the work of NGOs.

Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBuza), European Cooperation, MATRA programme, The Netherlands

Partners: Ecoproject

Contact: anke.stock@wecf.eu



Examples of active local development

Belarus – Citizens involvement Developing multi-stakeholder cooperation in the areas of water, waste and energy efficiency in Belarus was the focus of the three year project which ended in 2010 with as the project's overall aim: raising awareness on sustainable development, mainly in the areas of water, waste and energy efficiency, amongst NGOs, local authorities and citizens as well as businesses in their communities in Belarus.

Quality of drinking water The quality of the drinking water is a serious problem for rural areas where about 3.3 million people use wells as a source of water. So far only 30% of all existing wells have been subject to laboratory water tests. Around 30 to 50% of these wells do not comply with existing sanitary hygienic norms. The reason for their pollution are their poor condition, i.e. the lack of necessary hygienic and sanitary standards and their vicinity to farm land, waste water or animal dung.

Potential for energy saving Belarus is a net importer of energy and oil. However, the current prices for energy, e.g. gas and oil, do not encourage people to save energy. But the price of oil and gas has been increasing steadily, and people understand that energy prices will continue to increase in the future. There is a huge potential for energy saving in Belarusian buildings. Technically, energy saving of 50% to 70% can be achieved, but this requires substantial investments, and the payback time is about 5 to 10 years. In most school buildings, low cost measures can be implemented to reduce the energy consumption by 20 to 25% in a profitable way.

Wild waste dumps and home incineration of waste pose health risks Wild waste dumps in Belarus offer grounds for disease-carrying animals, such as cockroaches and rats. The burning of home waste produces emissions that can cause air pollution, in particular the burning of plastic waste can have severe health effects. Furthermore the dumping of waste in water contributes to various forms of water pollution. The problem of waste and the proper management with its disposal is also an issue to be addressed by this project.



Other activities

WECF and its partner Ecoproject Partnership presented the results of the 3-years MATRA project: "Developing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation in the Areas of Water, Waste and Energy Efficiency in Belarus" in March 2011 to policy makers and civil society at a conference in Minsk. The conference outcome are civil society recommendations for policy improvements in the areas of environmental management.

Representatives from the national authorities, local communities, NGOs, state institutions, businesses and media, as well as the Dutch Consulate and Bulgarian Embassy in Minsk took part in the conference and following visits to the demonstratoin projects. 10 local communities and schols demonstrated alternative solutions. For example, high-school nr. 19 in Minsk showed how to reduce energy losses in their school (till then, some classrooms were always too hot and others too cold). With simple measures heating could be both optimized and heating costs reduced.

A Dutch water consultancy demonstrated the best practices in water source protection, and the economic benefits of such a preventative approach to water quality. The local project partners presented how they had addressed problems such as high levels of iron in drinking water, and pollution of water wells by pit latrines. They also showed barriers they faced during development of project activities and the lessons learnt from the implementation of 3 years activities in their communities.

The final recommendations were included in a Conference Resolution, which was transmitted to several ministries as a consolidated position of Belarusian civil society. At the end of the day, WECF partner Eco-Project presented each pilot community with a certificate for successful participation and conclusion of the project. The certificates were hand made from recycled paper by the pupils of School nr. 145 in Minsk.

Around 40 participants joined the study visit organized by Ecoproject Partnership to three pilot projects in Minsk and the city outskirts. The participants visited School nr. 19 in Minsk, where an energy efficient classroom was implemented, the village of Smilovichy where an urine diverting toilet is constructed in a household and the centre for rehabilitation of children "Nadezhda", where a composting and waste separation were introduced.

On April 26th WECF witnessed one of the saddest days in the history of humankind and the consequences this has had for the people in Belarus – the Chernobyl catastrophe, with a press release, a letter to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a side event at the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD 18) at the UN head quarters. 24 years on and millions of people are still living and dealing with the consequences of this disaster. The scale of Chernobyl's accident is still difficult to estimate: not only since part of the data is still kept secret and publication of studies are being thwarted, but also because the affected territory extends far beyond Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. On Wednesday April 21st, international scientists presented latest information on how people and the environment continue to be affected by the catastrophe of Chernobyl, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. One million children are still condemned to live in environments contaminated by radionuclides from Chernobyl. In Ukraine, children represent 50% of the victims. The chronic contamination of these children has very serious effects on health. In Belarus today, 85% of the children in contaminated areas are ill; before the explosion, this figure was 15.2%. According to scientists at the Strassbourg Conference, up to 7 generations of children will continue to bear severe health consequences from Chernobyl.



Ukraine



Safe Sanitation, Health and Dignity

Excellent results were achieved by the Safe Sanitation Health and Dignity and the ELA programmes in Ukraine, which were both finalized in 2010. Since November 2010 Ecosan toilets have been officially legalized in Ukraine: it was publicly announced that UDDT are accepted as an official sanitation option for schools, meeting national sanitation standards. This is one of the biggest achievements of WECF and its partners. The project results have been published in professional journals and at expert conferences, so that the lessons are broadly shared with development organisations and authorities internationally. Whereas 5 years ago there was great scepticism from the side of authorities and the business sector, the project results have led to a major change in mentality. Remarkable for this sanitation project in Ukraine is indeed the level of support received from local authorities: they contributed up to 50% of total costs for construction of the 6 school toilets, benefiting 1200 pupils. This is due to the very professional and strong involvement of WECF's partners on the field: Mama86 and BSWC have achieved a very strong awareness raising on water quality and on ecological solutions for sanitation. Numerous meetings with citizens and local authorities took place in all implementing regions, resulting in very broad media coverage. A high level of capacity building was also achieved: 44 builders have been trained on ecosan technology in 16 villages, which ensures for an excellent transfer of knowledge. As a result all 6 school toilets built and 70% of the 81 household toilets are well maintained and used properly by the local population. The safe re-use of urine and faeces is ensured by the permanent monitoring of our local partners.

Water-monitoring was conducted in 48 villages, with very motivated pupils and villagers. 21 schools carried out Water Safety Plans in 2009 and 2010, using a methodology developed by WECF following WHO guidelines. During the project, our partners cooperated with 2 universities: the Ukrainian Polytechnic University and Odessa Building Institute: Cooperation with local enterprises: cost analysis for local construction materials were conducted for all household toilets and two business plans have been finalised in 2010, with the plan for a pilot production of 50 toilet seats by the private company Slovjansk in 2011, and another pilot production of toilets slabs by Pressmash in Odessa. The WECF project created a change of mindset of decision makers

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe with roughly 600.000 sq km but only about 46 million people. Of these 29% live below the poverty line – nearly 15 million. Access to safe drinking water is problematic especially in rural areas. Energy poverty is becoming a general concern after gas and oil prices where greatly increased by Russia in 2006. Health effects from the 1986 Chernobyl reactor disaster are a heavy burden for many families. WECF has worked for many years with partners in the Ukraine.

The REACH legislation in particular prompted WECF to start working in Poland. The widespread use of chemicals in daily life and work situations increases the exposure. WECF aimed at increasing public awareness of toxic chemicals and effective ways of reducing the risks.

At the same time the potential for public participation in decision and policy-making were explored. Through this work a number of active members of the WECF network were gained.

The current focus of WECF members in Poland is on sustainable rural development and water management in cooperation with WECF partner from neighbouring countries in Ukraine and Germany.

Country: Ukraine
Donor: Fondation Ensemble, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Commission
Partners: Mama-86, Black Sea Women's Club, CAN EECCA, Ecological Club "Kray"



Key importance of sustainable sanitation

WHO Europe and UNECE have acknowledged the key importance of sustainable sanitation for rural households and schools, and in the new Work programme of the Protocol on Water and Health, WECF has been asked to coordinate the work stream on small scale sanitation, based on the results of the a.o. the Ukraine project. The UNSGAB (United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board on Water), chaired by the Prince of Orange, has invited WECF to present the lessons of SSHD at the ministerial water conference in Sofia in 2009. UNSGAB decided to launch a 5 year push for school sanitation, and the resolution was accepted by the general assembly in December 2010. WECF was asked to present lessons learned from the Ukraine programme to the Independent Expert on the Right to Water and Sanitation of the HCR, Ms. C. de Albuquerque, so as to include lessons learned in her recommendations to the United Nations Secretary General. The business sector in Europe has accepted that decentralized sustainable sanitation systems, allowing reuse of nutrients and waste water, are the future for the waste water sector, the WECF projects in Ukraine have contributed with pioneering steps to this major achievement.

WECF network conference

In September 2010, the WECF network conference was held in Tatabunary, Ukraine with 50 representatives of member organisations from 30 countries. The ELA programme was evaluated through the 'Open Space' interactive methodology. The International Advisory Board also held its annual meeting in Tatabunary. An advocacy action was organised and supported by WECF member organisations to save the eco-system of a nearby estuary on the Black Sea. The network conference assured that lessons have been shared fast and effectively between all WECF member organisations.

Rural renewable energy

At the end of the year, the new 4 year rural renewable energy programme of WECF was launched, in which Ukraine is one of the 2 main implementing countries. The programme is building institutional capacity in rural areas for installation and maintenance of solar water collectors for hot water and heating, and increased energy efficiency.



Poland-Ukraine: „Well of knowledge“ Educational and Informational Water Center

During educational activities in schools and cultural centres, partners in Ukraine and Poland became aware of the fact that children, young people and their parents were very interested in water protection, but lacked the necessary knowledge. Approximately ten million people take their drinking water from the basin of the river Dniester (between Ukraine, Poland and Moldova) not realizing how polluted the water often is. That's why the Ukrainian Ecological Club "Kray" from Berezhany together with WECF Germany and their Polish partner "Dolina Stobrawy" (Stobrawa Valley) started a project aiming the grounding of a centre where information about conserving drinking water, using rain water, sewage disposals and a variety of other subjects were presented to change people's attitudes and habits toward water protection.

This centre is also to be used for school seminars, workshops, organized activities, knowledge contests. etc. Local society was involved right from the start in the centre's activities. There are 48 environmental NGOs that concentrate their work on the river Dniester, and have now found a central place for together activities and professional exchange. Berezhany town, where the water centre is located, is situated at a short distance from the Dniester river. The town contains 15 historical water pumps and a historical castle complex with its own well which were all built in the Polish time. The Water Centre passes on knowledge to change people's perception of water and water protection. Visitors from all over the region learn about water conservation measures and how to pay attention on its quality.

As a result of this German- Polish-Ukrainian cooperation, the Water Information Center in Berezhany, Ukraine was opened on July 10, 2010. At the opening an award was given for the best project, an educational trail and an ecological theatre play. It was supposed to be accompanied by 350th anniversary of Berezhany Castle. Unfortunately the anniversary party could not take place as planned due to enormous rainfall and floods. However, a conference on water protection and flood was held instead. After the official opening of Water Information Center in Berezhany, all activities moved into the old castle where youngsters performed a musical. Other accompanying activities were the opening of the exhibition "Valley of life", a press conference on the social and environmental problems of the Dniester basin and basin competition "Colors of Dniester" and an information campaign "Preserve Dniester".



Armenia

Mountainous Armenia has a population of roughly 3 million but around 10 million Armenians live all over the world as a consequence of the genocide in 1915-1916. The country's borders to Turkey (genocide) and Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh conflict) are closed.

In 1991 the country declared independence from the former Soviet Union. Armenia faces economic (poverty) and environmental problems (deforestation, pollution).

The country faced a severe energy crisis, which led to widespread deforestation (together with illegal logging the forests were reduced from 25% to less than 10%). Other serious environmental problems are the soil pollution from toxic chemicals, pollution of the major rivers Hrazdan and Aras, the extreme shrinkage of Lake Sevan through overuse of irrigation and hydroelectric power generation, which threatens water supplies and the danger from the highly unsafe nuclear power plant Metsamor.

Countries: Armenia
Donor: Private donors, World Vision, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Partners: Lore Eco Club, AWHHE
Partners: Lore Eco Club, AWHHE



Empowerment & Local Action – creating community run water supply organisations

2010 saw the establishment of the First citizen's-run Water Committee in the village of Sverdlov (Lore region) as a result of the WECF Empowerment & Local Action Program. The committee was initiated by the Sverdlov municipality, WECF and Lore Eco Club. WECF partner Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS) and the Community Drinking Water Users Union from Kyrgyzstan transferred knowledge and lessons learned from their successful Kyrgyz water user unions during a training in early March.

In 2008 WECF and World Vision decided to help the village of Sverdlov to renovate their water supply system. Although there were clean mountain springs nearby, in the village no water at all was available, and the people were using polluted river water. During Soviet times the water supply installed in 1972 was working well, but after Armenia became independent, there was no one responsible for maintaining the water supply and it started breaking down. The municipality tried to repair the water system provisionally with a very limited budget, but not enough to prevent a complete breakdown of the supply system.

In 2009, within the ELA project WECF and World Vision facilitated and financed the exchange of most pipes and some reservoirs of the exterior system bringing the water to the village. The community was responsible for doing the labour. Water was finally running, but not to all houses and after heavy rain the water was muddy. The inner system still needed renovation, as well as some of the reservoirs. Every week small reparations of pipes were needed.

Early March 2010 two experts from Kyrgyzstan and WECF field officer for Caucasus, visited Sverdlov for five days in order to assess the feasibility of a water committee managing the water system in Sverdlov and its organization. Information about the village and the perception of its inhabitants was gathered and in about six spontaneous street meetings the water situation in the village, the



responsibility for water and the readiness to pay for water was discussed. The fourth day the village meeting voted for the establishment of the water committee, and became the first general assembly of the water committee by the general assembly. The board and the supervisory commission of the water committee were elected. A monthly budget for the committee was calculated, and based on that the monthly contribution of 50 Dram (= 11 Euro-Cent) per person.

In June, about 90% of the population of Sverdlov had become a member of the committee and signed the contract for monthly contribution for their water supply. About 70% of the population was paying for water. In the beginning, the people were hesitant because the water supply was not what they had expected. While many of the households cannot yet afford a water meter of 10 Euro, it was not possible to organize a payment according to the real water use of the family. The committee has used all the water that has been gathered for technical works on the water supply with support of the mayor. In the mean while, the water is clean and enough for most households, and people are satisfied. Although salaries for the board members were budgeted, no salaries were paid on agreement of all members, in order to carry out reparations.

Where there is water, waste water appears. Therefore the concept of Urine Diverting Dry toilets has been introduced by Lore Eco Club in partnership with WECF for the school and municipality. Greywater filters have been introduced only theoretically so far. The interest among villagers in ecosan is very high, and needs to be further promoted. The committee is being registered as an official organization, has its statutes, bank account and stamp. They hope to engage in fundraising and improve the water and sanitation systems in Sverdlov further.



Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment activities

WECF partner Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE) continued to work on raising awareness about the uncontrolled burial of persistent organic pollutants which has still not been cleaned up, providing expertise and information to the local villagers and to international experts. AWHHE also continued to monitor and support the villagers in Hianist to maintain the ecological toilet system of their school and the water supply system installed in the first years of the ELA programme. AWHHE experts contributed actively to the report by the World Health Organisation on the water and sanitation situation in the EECCA region, which was a basis for the Meeting of Parties of the Protocol on Water and Health in November 2010. AWHHE presented their experience with water source protection and education on water quality during the conference organised by WECF and the Romanian government in Bucharest in June 2010. Finally, AWHHE agricultural experts shared lessons learned with partners in Georgia on making and use of plant-based tinctures for use in organic horticulture.



Bulgaria

Bulgaria lies in South Eastern Europe on the Balkan peninsula. It has borders with Greece, Turkey, Serbia, the Republic of Macedonia and Romania and has a long coastline on the Black Sea. Bulgaria joined the EU along with Romania on January 1, 2007. The population stands at 7 364 570 but is experiencing a continuing decline due to a negative birth rate and emigration. Increasingly the rural people have moved to the cities (mainly to the capital) over the last 10 years. Rural conditions are difficult. Despite a almost complete coverage with centralised water supply, Bulgaria lacks an adequate waste management systems. Poor ecological practices decrease the quality of life in rural Bulgaria.

WECF projects aim at improving rural conditions by promoting ecological sanitation and sustainable waste and water management. The projects support democracy building and public participation as well as capacity building, knowledge transfer and diffusion of project lessons and results.

Countries: Bulgaria, Greece

Donor: European Commission DG-Environment, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)

Partners: Otterwasser, TUUH, Eco-world, Earth Forever Foundation, Clean up Greece



Constructed Wetland Implementation for the treatment of domestic waste water on the site of a children's home

In Bulgaria, almost all inhabitants are served by centralised drinking water supply but 98% of the villages don't have any adequate wastewater collection or treatment. The unsafe sanitation and wastewater system sets public health at risk and pollutes groundwater and surface waters. Especially in rural areas, there is a lack of financial, technical and staff resources, thus low-tech, cost-efficient and sustainable wastewater management systems are needed.

Activities in 2010:

The constructed wetland, a sustainable wastewater treatment system has been constructed by WECF and its local partner Eco-World, to treat the wastewater of a Home for Children and Juveniles with Mental Retardation (ca. 100 users of water system) in the village of Vidrare, in Pravets Municipality. Constructed wetlands are sustainable alternative to conventional technical wastewater systems, they have the same or even better performance, are climate-friendly, need less energy, are easier to operate and maintain and are much more attractive in the landscape.

In 2010, WECF organized an open air seminar about the first constructed wetland for wastewater treatment in Bulgaria. The event was organized by WECF, Ecoword 2007, Pravets Municipality, and with the support of the State Administration of the Sofia Region. About 25 participants from different sectors (engineers, representatives from NGOs, institutions, municipalities, local citizens and other people who were interested in the construction) participated in the training, including the Director of Sofia Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters, the Director of the Water and Sewage Utility, the Mayor of Pravets and representatives of the State Administration Sofia Region. On the 2nd of December 2010, the progress of the constructed wetland was presented by EcoWorld at the Assembly of the Association of the Ecologists of Bulgarian Municipalities.



Round table dialogue with the European Commission in Sofia on waste water legislation

The new European Member States Romania and Bulgaria address the looming impossibility of achieving their obligations under the EC Urban Waste Water Directive and Water Framework Directive – a round table organised by WECF and Earth Forever in Sofia, looked at solutions on March 18, 2010.

The Governor of the Sofia Oblast welcomed more than 90 representatives of the Bulgarian and Romanian ministries of Environment and Water, Public Works, Agriculture and Health, water operators, Basin Directorate, mayors, governors, NGOs, scientists, the World Bank, the European Commission and international experts from France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom and Slovakia. "How high will the sanctions be which the Bulgarian tax payers will have to pay for not fulfilling their requirements under the Urban Waste Water Treatment directive?" was one of the first questions posed to the representative of the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water. Bulgaria has committed to assuring wastewater treatment for all towns with 2.000 to 10.000 inhabitants by 2014, but currently, no cost effective, feasible waste water concepts have been built in Bulgaria.

In Romania, in the last years a few hundred communes have obtained water supply and sanitation, but it remains a great challenge to provide the more than 3000 communes which still need waste water systems before 2018. "Therefore we are so interested by this round table, as we need low-cost solutions to be able to achieve the targets of the urban waste water directive, and the water framework directive", said Mrs. Ileana Vasilescu, from the Romanian Ministry of Environment. Professor Duncan Mara of the University of Leeds presented small-bore sewers and low cost waste-water stabilization ponds – of which over 5500 ponds are in use in Germany and France – to provide waste water treatment to small communities in Bulgaria and Romania. These waste water systems cost around 50% less than conventional systems. "If you really want to waste money, you can use standard size sewage pipes and conventional technical systems" said Mara.

The European Commission representative Mr. Bloech warmly welcomed the low-cost solutions of modern dry sanitation options which the NGO network WECF, together with local partners, implements in pilot projects for schools and households in Bulgaria and Romania as a reliable interim solution until water supply and waste water treatment are installed.

WECF presented at the conference a "guidance paper on decentralized cost-effective waste water systems" at the conference, as a tool for local decision makers and water operators and engineers. This guide book is a further development of the European Commission guide book on waste water systems for smaller communities of the year 2000, which can be downloaded from the EC website.



Bulgaria / Greece – WECF Project Healthy Schools

In this project which was officially completed in 2010, school children were given the opportunity to learn about their environment and possible ways to improve and protect it by developing their own ideas. The pilot project aimed to involve school children in two EU countries (Bulgaria and Greece) in dealing with environmental challenges in their direct environment. The activities are related to WHO Children's Health and Environment Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE).

The following schools participated

- * in Bulgaria: Romain Rolland Language School, Stara Zagora and Language High School, Pleven;
- * in Greece: Lykeio Kallitheas, Athens, and Fryganiotis Private School, Salonica.

The pilot projects and their assessments were all geared towards a presentation of results, by student representatives themselves, at the Ministerial Meeting (Parma March 2010) and/or at the related youth conferences. Several youth representatives could attend the Ministerial conference in Parma, Italy. The WHO Children's Health and Environment Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) is a document for policy makers addressing environmental risk factors that most affect the health of European children. It was developed at the request of Member States and adopted by European Ministers at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (2004) on "The future for our children". This action plan highlights the main commitments on children's health and environment and focuses on the four CEHAPE Regional Priority Goals (1-Water & Sanitation, 2-Air Quality, 3-Accidents, Injuries & Physical Activity, 4-Chemicals, Noise, other Physical Agents & Occupational Health). The latest developments in the CEHAPE process emphasize the importance of schools and their healthy environment.



Poland

As a Central European state Poland is surrounded by neighbours; Germany, the Czech Republic, Russia, Latvia, Slovakia and the Ukraine. Poland joined the European Union on May 1, 2004 and with it came the directives and other legal commitments. The REACH legislation in particular prompted WECF to start working in Poland. The widespread use of chemicals in daily life and work situations increases the exposure. WECF aimed at increasing public awareness of toxic chemicals and effective ways of reducing the risks.

At the same time the potential for public participation in decision and policy-making were explored. Through this work a number of active members of the WECF network were gained. The current focus of WECF members in Poland is on sustainable rural development and water management in cooperation with WECF partner from neighbouring countries in Ukraine and Germany.

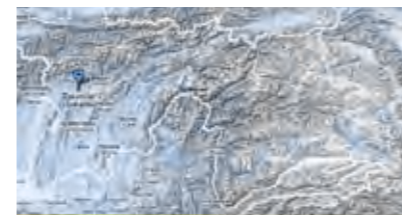
Countries: Poland, Ukraine, Germany
Donor: Bosch-Batory-Pauci Foundation, Poland - Germany
Partners: Ecological Club "Kray", Dolina Stobrawy



Green bridges Munich – Warsaw II

In previous years WECF supported its Polish partner SIE - Social Ecological Institute Warsaw in the project "Between the rivers Bug and Narew." This project was carried out in 15 rural Masovian communities along the river Bug - an area with important nature reserves. Aim of this project was to develop local partnerships between community organizations, farmers, food processors, eco-tourism agencies and local NGOs in order to manage and cultivate the region sustainable. Priorities of the partnership are organic farming, eco-tourism and local food production. In this context, WECF organized a Polish-German exchange in cooperation with the network UNSER LAND, successful example of economic partnership in 2008. As a follow up a Polish delegation from the community of Dlugosiodlo from the Masovia region visited the Bavarian community of Glonn and the area of Munich under the leadership of Mayor Stanislaw Jastrzebski in 2010. The visit was a result of the meeting held in 2009, where the Glonn mayor, Martin Esterl, and representatives of the region and activists for sustainable rural development visited Poland. Polish and German Mayors meeting on ecological farming. The ecological farms around Glonn, near Munich, made a big impression on the Polish visitors: their working methods, conditions, financing, alignment with EU regulations, and satisfaction of the farmers were thoroughly discussed. Many Polish visitors were surprised to find out that the milk prices were almost the same as in Poland (EU subventions are received by both countries) and that the German ecological farming is very successful. The farmers also stated that since they have switched to the ecological methods and to the local animal races, illnesses do not appear as often as they did when intensive agricultural methods were used. Also it is not economically justifiable to spend money on pesticides, antibiotics and veterinarian costs.

WECF's and SEI's aim is to activate farmers and producers to work together, create the networks of innovative cooperation, help farmers and producers with marketing their products that are bred in sustainable and ecological environment. There are 1.7 million farms in Poland and 90% of them are traditional family farms. Poland still has a high variety of plants and native breeds of animals, and big potential for quality, local organic products. To protect this agro-biodiversity and these traditional farms policy changes are necessary at the global and local level. Decision makers and the consumers need to be informed.



Tajikistan

Tajikistan is the poorest country within the former Soviet Union. The country is still feeling the effects of the civil war that took place from 1992-1997. It is infamous for being one of the world's largest transit countries for drugs from Afghanistan - opium poppy is grown in limited amounts in the country itself.

The relationship to its western neighbour Uzbekistan is strained, borders are disputed, and parts of the border have been mined by Uzbekistan. Only 6% of its 143,000 square kilometres is arable land, barely enough to feed the 7.3 million inhabitants. About 60% of its population are undernourished, 64% live below the national poverty line. Ranking third in the world in terms of water resources per capita, the planned construction of gigantic hydropower stations are a source of conflict with its downstream neighbour countries. Poverty, inadequate sanitation, industrial pollution and excessive pesticides use decrease the health of the population and increase environmental degradation. Infant mortality is high. Rural areas are especially affected. About 26% of the rural population have tap water, but the quality of supply has to be questioned. About 40% use rivers or streams as drinking water sources. More than 90% of the rural population have to use pit latrines or open pits.

WECF is working towards improving the conditions for the rural population by increasing the access to safe drinking and adequate sanitation, improved household energy and food security. Poverty alleviation is a key for improving the quality of life of people.

Countries: Tajikistan
Donor: Natracare UK, GTZ (GIZ) German International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, German Federal Ministry of Environment International Climate Initiative
Partners: ASDP NAU, Youth Environmental Center, Little Earth, Safo



Tajikistan: Natracare Safe School Sanitation Project

Due to cuts in development aid, many developing countries face a serious dilemma. The Central Asian country of Tajikistan is one of those countries. And this has especially consequences for the schooling of girls.

Natracare, a UK-based manufacturer of organic and natural solutions for personal health care has become a sponsor of WECF projects on improving sanitation in schools in the rural areas of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Natracare and WECF, both committed to healthy lifestyle for girls and women without damaging the environment, have started a cooperation for safe sanitation in developing countries, especially with a focus on girls.

For girls in the Netherlands or UK, having their monthly period is not a big deal, but not for the girls in these countries where due to the astoundingly poor sanitary conditions of the toilets they are prevented from attending school, and as a result missing out on their education. With financial help from Natracare, WECF builds school toilets in the rural areas of Tajikistan. WECF has a long track of similar successfully implemented projects in other countries that brought positive changes to the lives of many young girls and boys. The fund is also used for hygiene and health training for children and health/rights training for girls.

Toilets are essential for school girls

During the focus interviews evaluating the impact of the new school toilets, one school girl from the Gantjsi district in Tajikistan commented, "before we got an ecosan toilet at school, we used a pit latrine that was located far away. On rainy and snowy days it was slippery to get there and on cold days, we sometimes got urinary infections. Most girls could not go to school then. The ecosan toilet is not only beautiful but also has separate rooms for boys and girls. We are very happy. WECF partner ASDAP NAU builds the sustainable dry ecosan toilets in the Gantjsi region."

Natracare

Natracare is a manufacturer of biodegradable sanitary napkins and tampons and breast pads of one hundred percent certified organic cotton. These products are also good news for the environment. Because the synthetic materials in conventional sanitary products causing many environmental problems, including in the waste. Annually women around the world throw away some



45 billion sanitary products. The plastic and other harmful substances in these products cause many environmental problems, including waste. Natracare products prevent environmental degradation and are comfortable and of good quality for women to use.

Sustainable sanitation and drinking water

In 2010, the 3 year Empowerment and Local Action project was finalized in Tajikistan, focusing on documenting and sharing of results and best practices for further upscaling. The ELA programme partners have successfully introduced dry urine diverting sanitation as a means for increased hygiene and comfort for rural households and schools. Farmers have been involved in composting and testing the safe reuse of urine as a fertilizer. Several villages have tested their water quality, have started local drinking supply systems, and have improved the protection of their water sources. WECF also participated in the UN Water for Life conference in Dushanbe, presenting the best practices from rural water supply and sanitation.

Renewable energy and climate policies

As a result of the ELA programme in Tajikistan the WECF partners in Tajikistan have become actively involved in demonstrating renewable energy solutions for rural households in remote areas. WECF and its business partner Solar Partner Süd, have carried out a number of trainings on adapting solar collector systems to the local climate and market situation (see GTZ training). WECF partners Little Earth and Youth Ecological Center have become involved in promoting climate mitigation measures focusing on low-income rural areas. Representatives of WECF members in Tajikistan helped to organize the Climate Forum in Almaty in October 2010, in which representatives of the ministry of energy of Tajikistan participated. Representatives of Tajik NGOs have also taken part in WECF delegations to Climate negotiations of UNFCCC.

WECF training for GTZ Regional Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

In the framework of GTZ Regional Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, WECF conducted a training on 9-13 October in Dushanbe on solar collector construction in particular thermo-siphons.

The training consisted of a balanced mix between practice and theory. Participants gained skills on the materials & instruments and instruments needed for a thermo-siphon, suitable situation and dimensions of a thermo-siphon for warm water in the house, construction-methods and maintenance of a thermo-siphon.

Two different types of solar collectors have been constructed as demonstrations, and ironsheet where iron tubes are welded to a iron sheet and a clipcollector where sink sheets are clipped on copper-tubes. Participants were recommended to practice the construction of solar collectors and monitor its functioning in order to make real solar collector masters and finally bring the technology on bigger scale via small local businesses.



Moldova

Moldova is Europe's poorest country with some economic progress being made the last few years. Situated between Romania and Ukraine, the economy is largely agriculture based. The conflict with the breakaway republic in Transnistria remains unresolved. The country is highly dependent on trade with Russia; the banning of Moldovan wine and the raising of gas prices hurt the economy badly in 2006. More than 60% of the population lives below the national poverty line, with approximately 1/3 surviving on less than a dollar a day. Agricultural – often banned – pesticides continue to be in use and lead to soil and water contamination. Over 90% of the rural population use traditional pit latrines which are often unhygienic and a source of water pollution. Dug wells are used by more than 80% of the rural population as the source of their drinking water. WECF projects are aimed at improving this situation by demonstrating affordable solutions in the areas of river basin management, ecological sanitation, solid waste management and organic farming.



Democratization of the governance of the Dniester river basin

The project "Democratization of Dniester River Basin Governance" was successfully finalized in 2010. Local authorities, NGOs and citizen's communities worked together in trans-boundary cooperation between Moldova, Transnistria and Ukraine towards sustainable management of Dniester River Basin. WECF and partners organised the Dniester conference in Tiraspol (Transnistrian region) in October 2010 (the 3rd in a row), bringing together scientists, policy makers and civil society. WECF gender & rights expert presented a paper on the right to water and sanitation and public participation. The organisers prepared a competition for children and pupils about the Dniester and its environmental and social impacts and a common resolution was signed by all participants. Results of the project at local level were 20 demonstration projects, implemented in 20 communities, facilitated by 7 local NGO partners. Focus was laid on improving water management with involvement of all stakeholders. Cleaning actions along rivers were undertaken, trees were planted and even a water supply system was

Countries: Moldova

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Foundation, Foundation Danielle Mitterrand – France Libertés, Milieukontakt International, Church World Service, other Private Donors

Partners: WISDOM, ORMAX, Renașterea rurală, Eco-Tiras, Eco-Spektrum, Eco-Tox, Black Sea Women's Club



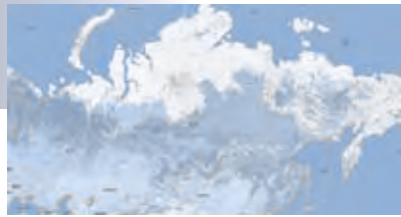
renovated. Many communities have found a sustainable source of funding to continue their activities initiated by this project.



Sanitation and renewable energy for rural communities

WECF organized a training on the construction of solar collectors and fruit dryers in Nikolaev, Ukraine, where participants from Moldova and Ukraine learned how to construct these low cost devices. Solar collectors can be used as easy and efficient way to produce energy, warm up houses and water. Awareness of the fact that solar energy is neither complicated, nor expensive and can be build with locally available products, is especially important for inhabitants of rural areas as it can stimulate their development. Besides practical construction lessons, a theoretical background was given and general information about the use of solar energy and other alternative technologies. Other ways to stimulate rural development is the use of fruit dryers with which household budgets can be supported. The training in July 2010 was organized as part of the ELA programme, with co-financing from the „East Foundation“. The participants were NGO members from the three aforementioned networks. The trainers were WECF and member organisations from Georgia (Social Development Centre Akhaltsikhe).

WECF and her Moldovan partner Wisdom continued in 2010 with the demonstration of sustainable toilets for households and schools. The monitoring and evaluation of the installed systems showed a great increase in hygiene and comfort, but also identified the need for local funding mechanisms for upscaling. WISDOM and WECF furthermore gave a presentation of the results and the urine diversion methodology to interested international organisations and ministries. As a result, other international donors have started investing in sustainable onsite sanitation using the WECF methodology. With the ministry of health, a programme started to raise awareness on the human right to sanitation, supported by Fondation Liberté of France. In September 2010 a new project started with its main objective being to raise awareness among Moldovan citizens on their fundamental right for clean water and sustainable sanitation. In October the first training was given to local NGOs, committees and interested citizens on the right to safe water and sanitation, and on developing Water and Sanitation Safety Plans (WSP). Since October 2010, local partners Ormax and Wisdom are implementing WSP in 10 Moldavian rural communities by testing and monitoring water quality from wells and springs, as well biological monitoring of rivers.



Russia

Russia is the largest country on earth. Most of the country is covered in coniferous forests, steppe and ice. There are only 8.3 inhabitants per square kilometre despite a population of 142 million.

Russia is nominally a democracy with supposedly independent jurisdictions and executive powers, but to many observers, the regime has become increasingly authoritarian; press freedom is restricted or under state control and public participation is limited. Non Governmental Organisations are experiencing political and bureaucratic obstacles in their work. Russia has great environmental challenges to tackle; radioactive and chemical waste, soil and land degradation, depletion of natural resources and water pollution. Large parts of the Russian population, especially in smaller cities and rural areas suffer from poor health, average life expectancy for men is very low, below age 60. Energy consumption for heating during the long winters is high and at the same time inefficient. This leads to air pollution in the towns and cities and increases CO₂ emissions. Poor water quality in most rural areas of Russia is also problematic, with an estimated 30 million people effected.

WECF and its local partner organisations are trying to improve the living conditions, in particular of populations in contaminated regions such as Chelyabinsk, through innovative measures to improve the environmental health and increase the public participation.



International Conference on Asbestos and the Rotterdam Convention

WECF co-organised with partner Eco-Accord Russia the "International High-level expert Conference on Chemical Safety and the Rotterdam Convention: Policies and Practices in Russia", which took place on the 14th and 15th of October 2010 in Moscow, Russia. The conference brought together 66 experts from all sectors to discuss the accession of the Russian Federation to the Rotterdam Convention and.

For the first time in Russia a public debate was held to discuss the accession of the Rotterdam Convention by the Russian Federation and strategies for elimination of chrysotile asbestos related diseases. The need to add Chrysotile Asbestos to the list of "Prior Informed Consent" is currently a main aim of a majority of the parties of the Rotterdam Convention.

Countries: Russia

Donor: Private donors

Partners: Eco-Accord Russia, Planet of Hopes, Eco-defence

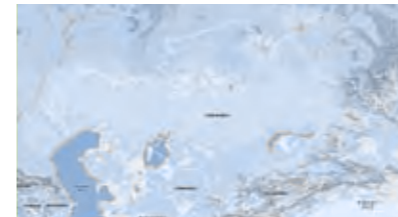


Russia is the main producer and one of the main users of chrysotile asbestos worldwide, a hazardous substance which more than 50 countries worldwide have stopped using and which the World Health Organisation estimates to cause around 100.000 death each year. Asbestos is a very sensitive issue in Russia. Some one million metric tons are produced every year. Currently asbestos containing materials are used in Russian public buildings like hospitals, schools and kindergartens, brakes and other materials. Contrary to many other countries, which used to be large chrysotile asbestos users, there are no informative cohort studies on workers exposed to asbestos making it difficult to estimate the number of diseases and death from chrysotile asbestos in Russia.



Long-term health effects from nuclear contamination

WECF continues to support partner organizations in the nuclear contaminated province of Chelyabinsk, where 2 accidents in the Mayak nuclear complex in the 1950ties, continue to cause disease and low life expectancy. Particularly effected are villages along the river Techa, which remains radioactively contaminated. Local partner organization Planet of Hopes and other organizations are giving support to the communities who have brought their cases to court. They are requesting a resettlement into non-contaminated areas. Also, victims who became ill from the exposure, either as child (even in the womb) or as workers, and who are no longer able to work, are trying to obtain a recognition of their situation. Currently, most victims receive only 1 Euro social support per month. As court after court, from local to national level, have refused to recognize their situation, the case of 200 victims have been brought to the European court of Justice.



Kazakhstan

With 15 million people spread over 2.7 million square kilometres Kazakhstan is a sparsely populated country – there are only 5,57 inhabitants per sq km. The country has borders with China, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan is resource-rich, especially oil and gas, resulting in a rapid GDP growth since 2000. The booming economy has made Kazakhstan the top target country for working migrants in the region and put it at 9th place worldwide.

While the resource richness ensures that only 19% of the population live below the poverty line, people's wellbeing is unevenly distributed in the country. Kazakhstan still receives foreign aid. Only 55% of the population are supplied with drinking water through a central water and sanitation system (CWSS). The rural population in particular suffers from poor access to energy, safe drinking water and sanitation.

The country needs to manage considerable environmental problems from chemical, radioactive and asbestos waste dumps and uranium mining tailings, to dried-up rivers, high soil salinity and water and soil pollution from agricultural pesticide use. Having about half of the Aral Sea within its borders, Kazakhstan also inherited one of the world's biggest man-made environmental disasters. The sea's Northern part, the so-called Small Lake, however witnessed some limited recovery over the last years and now supports a limited number of families.

WECF started working in three rural areas to improve access to energy, water and including through solar water heaters, ecological sanitation, water management systems and organic agriculture.

Countries: Kazakhstan

Donor: GTZ (GIZ) German International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, German Federal Ministry of Environment International Climate Initiative, European Commission, ACT Alliance

Partners: Kazakh Eco-forum, Eco-Center Kazakhstan, MCJM Kazakhstan, UNISON Kyrgyzstan, VELUX foundation



Lessons on environmental challenges on uranium and asbestos mining in Kazakhstan

WECF side event at the Asia and Pacific Region Ministerial Conference in Astana, 2010 - Recommendations and Opportunities for Green Growth in the mining sector.

Uranium and asbestos industries have a huge impact on the environment, social life and public health. EECCA countries have specific experience on uranium and asbestos handling and lessons learned may be a base to develop a "green and fair transition" to phasing-out uranium and asbestos activities.

The environmental impacts range from radioactive and toxic pollution of surface and ground-water aquifers, from the mining tailings to releases of conventional, toxic and radioactive air pollutants.

WECF's director and directors of partner organizations Kazakh Eco-Forum and BIOM Kyrgyzstan, presented data on the harmful effects during their side event in Astana, during the conference of environmental ministers from the Asia and Pacific.

Recommendations by WECF and partners are that a stronger monitoring of mining is needed, at national and international levels, through a balanced structure, which includes all parties concerned.

In Central Asia, governments should initiate an environmental, health and social 'Rehabilitation Program' in uranium mining areas. A specific program to contain and clean-up radioactive waste is urgently needed and should be budget priority.

Internationally, there is in particular a need for an independent monitoring body for uranium mining activities. The UN could develop a global instrument, to be financed amongst others by mining industry, for the clean-up of uranium mining waste.

On Asbestos, the Central Asian ministers of health and environment already committed themselves to develop national programs on the elimination of asbestos related diseases before 2015, they did so in the Parma Ministerial Declaration (March 2010). In addition to these activities, it is urgently needed that public health and workers health is protected, by informing people of the great health risk from exposure to chrysotile asbestos, with concrete steps to reduce exposure and to start substituting asbestos, in particular in public buildings such as schools and hospitals. All information on uranium and asbestos should be freely available, and civil society should be supported to hold information campaigns and raise public awareness.



Towards Cancun: Civil Society organisations engage policy makers in a dialogue on effective climate programmes and policies for Central Asia

In total 56 participants from 14 countries from Central Asia, the European Union and other regions took part in the Climate Forum CAE-FOCC II, in Almaty, on 11-12 of October 2010. The Second Central Asian-European Forum on Climate Change was organized by WECF together with its NGO member organizations 'Civic Environment Foundation UNISON', Kyrgyzstan and 'Eco-Center' Kazakhstan in cooperation with Eco-Forum NGOs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, under the Auspices of the Ministry of the Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The forum was initiated by civil society organizations as a dialogue with policy makers to exchange experiences and perspectives on national and international climate change processes, bringing together representatives of key stakeholders of civil society organizations (CSOs), national government bodies, the European Union and international agencies. The conference was to a great extent chaired by the vice-minister of Environment of Kazakhstan.

The forum was characterized by very lively and open dialogue and discussions. The forum addressed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations, focusing on the role of Central Asian countries and the cooperation with the EU regarding climate change.

Background: The First Central Asian European International Forum on Climate Change was held on 25-26th May, 2006 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as dialogue platform for representatives of government, business and civil society from European Union and Central Asia. The Forum has been initiated by the Civic Environmental Foundation UNISON, Kyrgyzstan with support of the European Commission and VELUX Foundation under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic.



Civil society and sound hazardous waste management, asbestos and POPs, in Kazakhstan

Numerous policy and economic decision makers on national and local level were informed by 2010 about the hazards of asbestos, asbestos waste, POPs and POPs waste via the high-level conference, seven local workshops and the national workshop that resulted in policy recommendations towards a national strategy on these issues. As a result, the target groups – multipliers such as political decision makers, CSOs, local authorities, community based organisations and the media – improved their knowledge on how to strengthen the national regulations, and the benefits of strengthening international binding policy frameworks such as the Stockholm Convention and Rotterdam Convention. WECF and Eco Forum also helped to obtain a target on elimination of asbestos related diseases in the Parma Ministerial Declaration, which was signed by all ministers of health and environment of the Central Asian, Caucasus and European region (UNECE). This has led to WHO-Euro prioritizing asbestos as one of the key focus areas for all EECCA countries, as of 2011, WHO will support Kazakhstan in developing a national plan for elimination of asbestos related diseases. Thus the project has led to stronger public participation in monitoring of existing regulations and in development of stronger legislation for the protection of human health and the environment in Kazakhstan. In the longer term, this should result in better protection of public health from chrysotile asbestos and POPs.



Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been suffering from war since the beginning of the Soviet occupation in 1979, followed by a civil war resulting in an enormous impact on the country. Since the US-led "Operation Enduring Freedom" toppled the Taliban regime in 2001, the country has embarked on economic reforms and democratisation that are blocked by the resistance of warlords and Taliban in various parts of Afghanistan.

The country's economy has grown since then, but mainly due to the influx of foreign aid. Illegal growing of poppy and the drugs production make up an estimated 30% the actual GDP. Returning refugees bring both initiative and money to the country.

The economy is highly dependent on agriculture. About two-thirds of the population live in rural areas. But 80% of these people have to survive on less than 1 dollar a day. Only 31% have access to improved water sources, and less than 1% to adequate sanitation. Over the last few years, overgrazing, deforestation, desertification and serious droughts have impacted the environment.

WECF with its partner Katchel e.V. improves the rural conditions through ecological sanitation and better access to safe drinking water. The gender imbalance in Afghanistan increases the importance of WECF's work. Strategic partners in Afghanistan also include GERES Afghanistan, which improves the energy situation for poor households in the Central region of Afghanistan and the poor suburbs around Kabul and furthermore OPEN ASIA France-Armanshahr Foundation which works for women's rights and development in Afghanistan.



Afghanistan: WECF and Katchel e.V. project

WECF and the NGO "Katchel" Afghanistan have initiated joint activities to improve the water, sanitation and health situation in the Kunduz region of Afghanistan. Katchel Afghanistan has been operating and implementing projects there for almost 15 years. Its projects include the construction and maintenance of schools, building of drinking water wells, support for war widows, the equipment of a health care station, the construction of a bridge over the Gaukush river as well as families returning from refugee camps rebuild their houses.

In 2008 WECF launched the ELA Program, which aimed at capacity building, enhancing empowerment and working on gender equality amongst the poor people in most of the EECCA countries and Afghanistan. The work of the ELA program was focussed on drinking water supply, sanitation (e.g. urine diverting dry toilets), sustainable agricul-



ture, and energy saving and renewable energies. According to the State of the World's Toilets 2007 report Afghanistan was classified as the place in the world with the worst sanitation conditions.

Activities in 2010

Katchel is WECF's partner in Kunduz, Afghanistan. Katchel was financially supported by the MFS program for the last year years, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2010 money was invested in building better washrooms for families in need. Poor and vulnerable families were specifically chosen for this project, for whom the constructions would improve their everyday life conditions. Katchel has ordered 1000 eco-san toilets to be installed in the Kunduz region to provide for better sanitation and protect the groundwater (Katchel e.V., 2010). In October 2010 WECF received a report from Katchel concerning the current conditions of the built toilets. In September Katchel invested money in the construction of new toilets in Katchel, Nasserli and Kunduz for poor and needy people and for the sake of improvement of their living conditions. In Katchel and Nasserli 10 families were supplied with a fountain, 5 of which have the new bathroom, the other 5 have received a bathroom in 2009.

Steel beams and concrete slabs

The total number of the users of the bathrooms will be about 200 people, half of whom are girls and women. The circular water wells deliver only domestic water, which is good to use for personal care. The water is of good microbiological quality, but unfortunately contains a lot of salt, which may lead to a kidney disease. Several beneficiaries claimed that the low-cost ecosan bathroom-toilets are the best rooms in the entire house, because they are actually the only rooms that were built of stone. The benefits of the stone buildings are obvious during the winter time when it rains and the mud destroys the bricks. The toilets are built of burnt stone, brick and cement-lime mortar. The floor and the roof are constructed from steel beams with concrete slabs and inlay. Geres Afghanistan and Armanchar foundation were involved in developing with WECF and Katchel further project with a focus on household energy and food storage, and women's economic and political rights and participation.

Countries: Afghanistan

Donor: European Commission DG-Environment, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)

Partners: Otterwasser, TUUH, Eco-world, Earth Forever Foundation, Clean up Greece

Other Countries

WECF has been working in the past or has resumed working in 2011 in a few other countries not mentioned on the country pages: Albania, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia, Uzbekistan. WECF would like to work more in those countries, but due to lack of funding, or in case of Uzbekistan, project work has been halted due to the political situation.

Estonia

The Republic of Estonia is situated in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. It borders the Gulf of Finland to the north, the Baltic Sea to the west, Latvia to the south and the Lake Peipsi and the Russian Federation to the east. The capital and largest city is Tallinn. Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic, and a member of the European Union, Eurozone and NATO.

WECF member Baltic Environmental Forum joined the Project Nesting Campaign in 2010, with a toys guide, a Nesting website adapted to an Estonian audience and public brochures aiming to create a healthy environment for young children.

Albania

The country is situated in South Eastern Europe. It borders Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, the Republic of Macedonia to the east and Greece to the south and southeast. Since January 2003 Albania has been a potential candidate for accession to the European Union. On 28 April 2009 the country formally applied for EU membership. Albania remains a poor country according to the Western European standards. Its GDP per capita stood at 26 percent of the EU average in 2010. The most important sector in the country is the agriculture, which employs 58% of the labour force and generates about 21% of GDP.

WECF partner LGZHI has been active in promoting safe toys and safe chemicals in their home country.

Greece

Greece lies at the juncture between Europe, Asia and North Africa and is regarded as the cradle of Western civilisation, democracy and philosophy.

Today, Greece is a member of the European Union. Economic development has come with environmental problems, such as water protection, agricultural pesticides, environmental degradation and toxic chemicals, which decrease the quality of life of the population and the health of the environment.

WECF works closely with its partner organization Clean Up Greece to improve the conditions through awareness raising and lobbying actions, mainly through the projects Nesting and Healthy Schools.

Hungary

The Republic of Hungary is a landlocked country in the Carpathian Basin in Central Europe, bordered by Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Its capital is Budapest. Hungary is a member of EU, NATO, OECD, V4 and is a Schengen state.

Since 1989, the form of government is a parliamentary republic. Today, Hungary is a high-income economy, and a regional leader regarding certain markers.

WECF works together with the Large Families Association (NOE), reaching 14 thousand member families in Hungary through the Nesting project.

Macedonia

Macedonia is located in the central Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe. The country is bordered by Kosovo to the northwest, Serbia to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south and Albania to the west. Macedonia declares its independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. Since 1993 the country is a member of the United Nations; however Macedonia was admitted under the provisional reference of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, because of the disagreement with Greece. The capital of the country is Skopje, which is home to 506,926 inhabitants.

WECF has found itself a very active partner and member in Macedonia: Journalists for Children and Women Rights and Environmental Protection, a Macedonian NGO led by Natasha Dokovska.

Serbia


Serbia is located at the crossing of Central and Southeastern Europe. The country encompasses the southern part of Carpathian basin and the central part of the Balkans. It borders Hungary to the north, Romania and Bulgaria to the east, the Republic of Macedonia to the south, and Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro to the west. The capital and the largest city in the country is Belgrade with a population of around 1.7 million people and it is one of the most populated cities in Southeast Europe.

Preparations for working with the Serbian NGO Resource Center Leskovac started in 2010 for the EU project on Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans.

Uzbekistan

A country in difficulties – political unrest and oppression, severe environmental issues and poverty. Although only 28% of the population is below the poverty line the political conditions make it very difficult to improve the economic situation. Public participation in decision-making is difficult and has already led to political murder. Uzbekistan often associated with the Aral Sea, a shrinking and heavily polluted inland sea. Chemicals and natural salts are concentrated on the dried out seabed, strong winds blow these around the countryside making the people ill and destroying their crops and agricultural lands.

Water availability and safety are low, 84% of the rural population have no access to safe water and only 52% have adequate sanitation. These were the focus areas of WECF – improving water and sanitation through ecological sanitation and water management. Currently, WECF activities in the country have been halted due to the political situation.



“ WECF helped us, not only with activities, but also with just plain support in our not so easy fight”.

Nadezhda Kutepova,
chair of Russian NGO Planet of Hopes, human rights lawyer, defending the nuclear victims from the nuclear catastrophe in Mayak in court.



Organization

“ WECF forms a bridge between European and Central Asian environmental and women’s organisations, allowing transfer of knowledge, experience and partnership in both directions. WECF is one of the few organisations which grows whilst also promoting the growth of its partners”.

Farida Shorukova, ELA project assistant

Staff WECF overview in 2010



WECF The Netherlands

Development aid, poverty reduction and Gender



WECF France

Chemicals of concern - exploring solutions



WECF Germany

Regional sustainable development

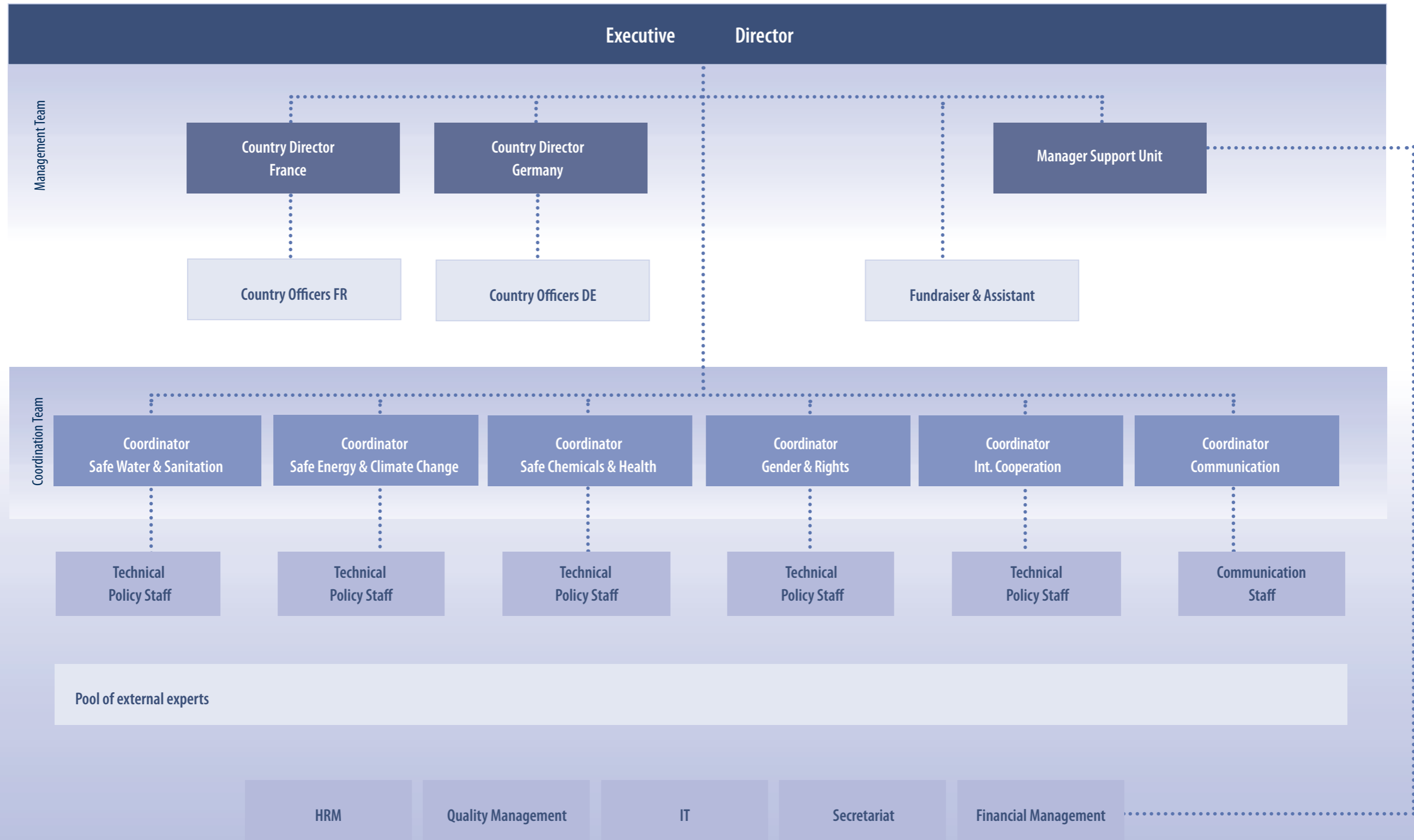


Staff

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, the Netherlands, Munich, Germany and Annemasse, France. WECF has regional coordinators based in Tbilisi, Georgia and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. WECF works with volunteers, interns, paid staff and consultants.

Sascha Gabizon	Executive Director	Bistra Mihailova	Project officer Bulgaria
Maureen Brouwer	Manager Support Unit	Alexandra Caterbow	Coordinator Health Chemicals
Gemma Ferst	Coord. Int Cooperation	Farida Shorukova	Project Assistant Central Asia
Sovka Trajcesvka	Coord. Int Cooperation	Tatiana Dereviago	Project officer Belarus
Anna Samwel	Regional Coordinator	Regina Drexel	Energy project officer
Fedde Jorritsma	Regional Coordinator	Claudia Wendland	Sanitation, Policy coordinator
Olivia Radu	Country Officer Romania & Moldova	Karin Adolph	Technical officer
Olga Plekanova	Project Assistant Eastern Europe & Russia	Magdalena Black	Technical officer Agriculture and Energy
Chantal van den Bossche	Communication Manager	Sabine Hanisch	Office manager & Bookkeeper Germany
Lies de Bloois	Financial controller	Dalena Bischeltsrieder	Executive Assistant
Margreet Munneke	Bookkeeper	Tanja Lovetinsky	Administrative assistant
Nelleke van Ziel	Office Manager	Johanna Hausmann	press and project coordinator
Annemarie Hekkers	Office Manager	Veronique Grassinger	Corporate Identity & Publications
Demi Theodori	Coordinator Health & Chemicals, Netherlands	Doris Möller	Project Assistant
Ingrid Elbertse	Coordinator Nesting, the Netherlands	Sophie Schmitz- Sabarly	Rémunération Chargé Animations
Gero Fedtke	Coordinator International Programmes	Natalia Dejean	Coordinator and Project Developer
Sabine Bock	Director Germany/ Coordinator Energy and Climate Change	Elisabeth Rufiningo	Advocacy Officer
Margriet Samwel	Water, Waste coordinator	Anne Barre	Director France
Anke Stock	coordinator cross cutting & Moldova		
Sabine Brückmann	Agriculture coordinator		

WECF organogram in 2010



IAB and BOT in 2010

International Advisory Board

The WECF international Advisory Board represents the WECF members, leads the WECF working groups and helps to develop strategies for the organisation. The IAB is elected by the WECF members. IAB elections take place every 3 years, mostly during the general members meetings. It is with great regret and gratitude that we have said farewell to Irene Dankelman as the chair of the IAB as she contributed so much to the development of WECF since its beginnings. We are glad to welcome the new co-chairs of the IAB, Thérèse van Gijn and Anna Tsvetkova.

Name	Function	Country
Therese van Gijn	President	The Netherlands
Svetlana Slesarenok	Co-Chair	Ukraine
Diana Iskrevia	working group leader	Bulgaria
Anna Tsvetkova	co-working group leader	Ukraine
Nadeshda Kutepova	working group leader	Russia
Kaisha Atakhanova	co-working group leader	Kazakhstan
Victoria Elias	co-working group leader	Russia
Elizbieta Priwieziencew	working group leader	Poland
Helen Lynn	working group leader	UK
Elena Manvelian	co-working group leader	Armenia
Rostom Gamisonia	co-working group leader	Georgia
Mihaela Vasilescu	co-working group leader	Romania

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF. The Board of Trustees meets at least 2 times per year to approve the years accounts and report, and to approve the upcoming years budget and workplan.

Christine v. Weizsäcker	President
Marjon Reiziger	Vice-president
Bert Kuitert	Treasurer
Grietjes Zeeman	Member
Marianne Nugteren	Member



WECF map of countries with members in 2010

(for countries with projects and partners see www.wecf.eu)



Afghanistan	1	Estonia	13	Lebanon	25	Slovenia	37
Albania	2	Finland	14	Lithuania	26	Spain	38
Armenia	3	France	15	Luxembourg	27	Sweden	39
Austria	4	Georgia	16	Kyrgyzstan	28	Serbia	40
Azerbaijan	5	Germany	17	Moldova	29	Switzerland	41
Belarus	6	Greece	18	Nepal	30	Tajikistan	42
Belgium	7	Hungary	19	Netherlands	31	Turkey	43
Bulgaria	8	Italy	20	Norway	32	Uganda	44
Bosnia	9	Ireland	21	Poland	33	Ukraine	45
Croatia	10	Kazakhstan	22	Romania	34	United Kingdom	46
Czech Republic	11	Macedonia	23	Russian Federation	35	USA	47
Denmark	12	Latvia	24	Slovakia	36	Uzbekistan	48

WECF has had active members since 1996 that are classified in 3 categories.

Full members (with full voting rights)

- NGOs with articles of association that endorses the mission of the WECF network.
- Individual members (<50% of the votes at any meeting)
- Environment & Sustainable Development committees or working groups within larger organisations

Associate members (no voting rights)

Individual members

FULL MEMBERS		
No.	Country	Name
1	Afghanistan	Katachel e.V.
2	Albania	Eden Center; Environmental center for Development, Education and networking
3	Armenia	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
4	Armenia	Charitable Women Armenia
5	Armenia	Lore Eco Club NGO
6	Armenia	Khazer Ecological and Cultural NGO
7	Armenia	Rural Sustainable Development
8	Armenia	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG
9	Armenia	Ecolur Information NGO
10	Azerbaijan	Digital Development
11	Azerbaijan	Solidarity Among Women
12	Azerbaijan	Women and Development Centre AWDC)
13	Azerbaijan	EKOT NGO; Environmental Sustainability
14	Belarus	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative
15	Belarus	Ecosphere
16	Belarus	International Educational NGO ACT
17	Bosnia	Viktorija 99
18	Bulgaria	Earth Forever Foundation
19	Bulgaria	Association Eco-world 2007
20	Czech Republic	Agentura Gaia
21	Georgia	Georgian Association of Toxicologists
22	Georgia	Rural Communities Development Agency
23	Georgia	SEMA
24	Georgia	Greens Movement of Georgia
25	Georgia	Akhaltshikhe Center of Social Development
26	Georgia	Foundation Caucasus Environment , NGO
27	Georgia	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA
28	Georgia	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association
29	Georgia	PAROS
30	Germany	VHUE e.V. - Association of Environmental Health patients
31	Germany	Green City
32	Greece	Clean up Greece
33	Hungary	National Ass. of Large Families
34	Ireland	Irish Doctos Environmental Association (IDEA)
35	Kazakhstan	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"
36	Kazakhstan	UGAM
37	Kazakhstan	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency
38	Kazakhstan	EcoCenter
39	Kyrgyzstan	BIOM
40	Kyrgyzstan	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water
41	Kyrgyzstan	UNISON Civic Environmental Foundation
42	Kyrgyzstan	Alga, Rural Women's NGO
43	Kyrgyzstan	ULGU , public association

44	Kyrgyzstan	Camp Alattoo
45	Kyrgyzstan	Social Union, Agerkech
46	Kyrgyzstan	Habitat for Humanity
47	Kyrgyzstan	Public Ass Medical Alliance
48	Kyrgyzstan	Public Fund Development and Cooperation in Central Asia (DCCA)
49	Latvia	SO SPS Savstarpejas Palidzibas Sabiedriba / Mutual Aid Association
50	Macedonia	Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia
51	Moldova	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WISDOM)
52	Moldova	Ecospectrum
53	Moldova	Eco-Tiras, International Environmental Ass of River Keepers
54	Moldova	Ecotox
55	Moldova	National Centre for Sustainable Development
56	Moldova	Ormax Cultural Youth Association
57	Moldova	Terra 1530
58	Netherlands	Leefmilieu (Human Environment)
59	Netherlands	Meldpunt Gezondheid en Milieu
60	Netherlands	ZijActief
61	Netherlands	Ecobaby, Stichting
62	Netherlands	Nederlandse Bond van Plattelands-vrouwen
63	Poland	Social Ecological Institute
64	Poland	Network of East-West women Polska
65	Romania	Femei Pentru un Viitor Curat, FVC / Women for a Clean Environment
66	Romania	Femeia Mileniului III / The Woman of the Third Millennium
67	Romania	Geo San
68	Romania	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia
69	Russia	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims
70	Russia	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'
71	Russia	Nabat Muslyomovo
72	Russia	Planet of Hopes
73	Russia	Step Forward Snezynsk
74	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Argayash
75	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Kashli
76	Russia	Eco-Accord
77	Spain	EQUIPS Initiative
78	Sweden	Environmental Protection and Health Network
79	Sweden	Global Action Plan
80	Tajikistan	Youth Ecological Center
81	Tajikistan	ASDP Nau
82	Tajikistan	SAFOi Sughd
83	Turkey	Bugday
84	Turkey	EKOBA
85	UK	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe
86	UK	Women's Environmental Network - WEN
87	Ukraine	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society - USHS
88	Ukraine	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"
89	Ukraine	Mama-86 Kiev

90	Ukraine	Vozrozhdenie
91	Ukraine	Bukvitsa
92	Ukraine	Black Sea Women's Club
93	Uzbekistan	SABR Trust Center
94	Uzbekistan	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO 'Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasa
95	Uzbekistan; Karakalpakstan	Mehriban

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

No.	Country	Name
1	Armenia	Meghvik children and youth NGO
2	Austria	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace
3	Azerbaijan	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights
4	Azerbaijan	TETA-KHAZRI
5	Belarus	ISS Independent Social Support
6	Bulgaria	Association Eco-world 2007
7	France	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique
8	Germany	Unser Land
9	Kazakhstan	Eco-Museum
10	Kazakhstan	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption
11	Lithuania	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology
12	Lithuania	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC
13	Macedonia	Eko-svest
14	Moldova	Institutul de Cercetari Pentru Culturile de Cimp 'Selectia" ICC "Selectia"
15	Moldova	Asociatia Obsteasca CUTEZATORUL
16	Nepal	RUWON Rural Women Network Nepal
17	Netherlands	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling
18	Romania	Euro Teleorman
19	Russia	Environmental Youth Club
20	Serbia	Environmental Research
21	Serbia	Environmental Ambassadors
22	Serbia	Ozone Citisen Association
23	Sweden	Centerwomen
24	Uganda	Women's Health Goup
25	Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
26	Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
27	Ukraine	Women for Environment
28	Uzbekistan	Concord

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

No.	Country	Name
1	Armenia	Inga Zaratyan
2	Armenia	Karine Danielyan
3	Belgium	Catherine Wattiez
4	Croatia	Lidija Luttenberger

5	Denmark	Muborak Sharipova
6	France	Elisabeth Ruffingo
7	France	Nita Chaudhuri
8	France	Ina Ranson
9	Georgia	Dalila Khorava
10	Germany	dr Minnu Hemmati
11	Germany	Sabine Brueckmann
12	Germany	Silvia Pleschka
13	Greece	Caterina Choreftaki
14	Greece	Angela Klauschen
15	Italy	Olivi Scuderoni
16	Kazakhstan	Kaisha Atakhanova
17	Kyrgyzstan	Svetlana Bashtovenko
18	Latvia	Inese Eistere
19	Lebanon	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezan
20	Luxembourg	Angela Roberto
21	Nepal	Bimala Prajapati
22	Netherlands	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute
23	Netherlands	Pamela Lawson
24	Netherlands	Anita Harting
25	Netherlands	Livia de Metz
26	Netherlands	Sophia Hiddema
27	Netherlands	Margreet Wewerinke
28	Netherlands	Adriana Debora Hulsmann
29	Netherlands	Irene Dankelmann
30	Netherlands	Kitty Bentvelsen
31	Netherlands	Rosemarie b.j. Oude Luttikhuis-Merz
32	Netherlands	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink
33	Netherlands	Willy Douma
34	Russia	Olga Senova
35	Russia	Patimat Gadzhieva
36	Russia	Victoria Elias
37	Serbia	Ivana Blagojevic
38	Slovakia	Katarina Korytarova
39	Slovenië	Maja Bavdaz Solce
40	Spain	Isabel Ripa
41	Spain	Viviana Avendano
42	Sweden	Mildred Thulin
43	Sweden	Karin Sondergard
44	Sweden	Anne-Sofie Andersson
45	Turkey	Mine Yapar
46	UK	Helen Lynn
47	UK	Clare Flenley
48	UK	Sonia McLay
49	Ukraine	Galushkiva Tatijana

Overview of WECF publications in 2011

50	Ukraine	Victoria Yurescue
51	USA	Mark Hengen
52	USA	Claire Greensfelder
53	Uzbekistan	Karimova Nodira

HONORARY MEMBERS

No.	Country	Name
1	Netherlands	Marie Kranendonk

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

Country	Name
Armenia	Meghvik children and youth NGO
Austria	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace
Azerbaijan	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights
Azerbaijan	TETA-KHAZRI
Belarus	ISS Independent Social Support
France	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique
Germany	Unser Land
Kazakhstan	Eco-Museum
Kazakhstan	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption
Lithuania	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology
Lithuania	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC
Macedonia	Eko-svest
Moldova	Institutul de Cercetari Pentru Culturile de Cimp "Selectia" ICC "Selectia"
Moldova	Asociatia Obsteasca CUTEZATORUL
Nepal	RUWON Rural Women Network Nepal
Netherlands	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling
Netherlands	Marie Kranendonk
Romania	Euro Teleorman
Russia	Environmental Youth Club
Serbia	Environmental Ambassadors
Serbia	Ozone Citisen Association
Serbia	Environmental Research
Sweden	Centerwomen
Uganda	Women's Health Group
Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
Ukraine	Women for Environment
Uzbekistan	Concord

The following pages will provide information about the WECF press release and publications in 2011. More publication you can find at www.wecf.eu

09.12.2010 | "Ecological cleaning" and "Prevention of mould" Infolyer available in Arabic-German and Vietnamese-German.

30.11.2010 | Gender and Climate Change – An Introduction Textbook edited by Irene Dankelman, former chair WECF's International Advisory Board, with contributions from WECF.

08.11.2010 | Die Verkannte Gefahr: Umwelteinflüsse und Brustkrebs – Heilen ist gut, Vermeiden ist besser! Brustkrebs-broschüre in deutsch und englisch.

30.10.2010 | WECF Toys Guide - How to choose toxic-free toys in several languages. Concise information on most of the hazardous substances found in toys and concrete tips on how consumers can play it safe when buying toys for children.

29.10.2010 | WECF offers tailor made trainings on water, sanitation and energy

WECF offers tailor made trainings on water, sanitation and energy issues, including practical demonstrations and focus on sustainability via local participation and learning by doing.

11.10.2010 | Annual Report WECF 2009

WECF gathers forces as a network to meet the next set of challenges facing us in the coming years.

29.09.2010 | Household Cleaning and Care Products. Protect children and the environment by avoiding hazardous chemicals.

27.09.2010 | Compost – the black gold

In this flyer the safe re-use of organic waste and faecal matter to increase your yields and improve your soil is shortly explained.

14.07.2010 | Urine – the yellow gold

Safe re-use of human urine from ecosan toilets to increase your yields.

22.06.2010 | „The Critical Question“ available in French, German and English. Parution de La Question Centrale: Energie nucléaire témoignages d'expériences vécues en première ligne.

21.06.2010 | „Gender and Climate Change“ WECF fosters the participation of women and men from the EECCA region in its delegations attending international meetings on climate change as the whole region is underrepresented and supports participation of women in climate change negotiations as women's views and visions are not yet sufficiently taken into account.

16.06.2010 | Le Guide Cosmétiques Bébé de WECF

Comment bien choisir les Cosmétiques Bébé: WECF France publie un nouveau guide.

16.06.2010 | „Kindergesundheit geht vor! Passivrauch vermeiden!“

Neu! WECF-Flyer zur Vermeidung von Zigarettenrauchbelastung in Wohnräumen.

11.06.2010 | "The Critical Question" and „Die Kernfrage“

Publications in German, English and French on nuclear's impact on people's lives. Interviews mit Männern und Frauen, die über ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen mit der Kernenergie erzählen.

15.04.2010 | „Girls Disrupted“ and „Gestörte Weiblichkeit“

Publication in German and English. Endokrine Disruptoren und das weibliche Fortpflanzungssystem - Ein Bericht über den Workshop „Women's Reproductive Health and the Environment“.

01.04.2010 | Sustainable and cost-effective wastewater systems for rural and peri-urban communities up to 10.000 PE.

A guidance paper in English, Bulgarian and Romanian for decision makers, water operators and engineers.

31.03.2010 | Construction of solar collectors for warm water Practical guide in English and Russian.

24.03.2010 | The Challenges of Solid Waste Management in Rural Romania – findings of a survey in four Romanian villages on the management of solid waste such as plastics, animal and hazardous waste.

03.03.2010 | Case study on Lessons from Water Safety Plans (WSP) from Water Safety Plans (WSP) for small-scale water supply systems as developed by schools in Romania.

04.02.2010 | WECF publication presents 4 renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions for low income rural areas presents how WECF experts and partners developed and adapted technologies for solar water heaters, local insulation materials, biogas and solar food driers, a publication on practical solutions for renewable energy and energy efficiency, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety. Available in German, English, French, Dutch and Russian

03.02.2010 | WECF Strategic Approach 2010-2015 focused on working for a healthy environment for all for the period 2010-15, both in terms of implementation projects and advocacy work at local, national and international level.

Films/Video/TV International

26.01.2010 | Sustainable ecosanitation projects in Central Asia
Two WECF partners issued videos on their water and sanitation projects. This first video 'Ecosan in Kazakhstan' produced by Elena Efimova and WECF partner MCMJ, shows the sustainable sanitation project in Kazakhstan. As the traditional sanitation is not a viable option dry toilets are used.

25.03.2010 | Campaign in France to alert the public to be aware of toxic toys, see at Youtube

25.03.2010 | Video: CEHAPE Awards at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WHO European Region on Environment and Health presenting eight winning projects that have received Children's Environment and Health Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) Awards at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WHO European Region on Environment and Health.

20.04.2010 | The Emergency situation on burial of obsolete pesticides, which could pose enormous threats to human health and environment, will come to solution in Armenia.

Highlights

Dutch

03.12.2010 | Gevaar in de Kinderkamer – reportage Uitgesproken VARA.

22.11.2010 | Onduidelijkheid nanoprodukten zaait onrust: Tijdens het debat op 9 november 2010 over nanodeeltjes in consumentenproducten werd duidelijk dat er bij de ouders en toeschouwers nog veel vragen waren over de gezondheidsrisico's van deze deeltjes.

French

04.12.2010 | Un succès pour le colloque Jouets ce 18 novembre
Retrouvez en images le colloque Jouets organisé par WECF France au Pavillon de l'Eau.

German

07.12.2010 | WECF in Cancun: Intervention AWG-KP contact group on stocktaking. By Sabine Bock, WECF on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

08.12.2010 | Gefahr unterm Weihnachtsbaum Gift im Spielzeug – Interview with Alexandra Caterbow from WECF. Weihnachten steht vor der Tür und die Spielzeugindustrie hofft auf gute Geschäfte. Doch in vielen Plüschtieren, Holzspielzeug oder Baby-puppen lauern unsichtbare Gefahren, so genannte polyzyklische, aromatische Kohlenwasserstoffe - kurz PAK (ZDF – German TV)

Press release International

18.01.2010 | WECF joins new campaign „With Women: WECF launched the Campaign „With Women“, together with the French Coordination of the European Women's Lobby and the support of Corinne Lepage, Nicole Fontaine, Michèle André, and UNESCO.

25.01.2010 | Niketan in toilet photo competition: WECF took part in a „toilet competition“ to raise more awareness for the lack of proper and sustainable sanitation in Europe and in developing countries (Mambapoint TV in the Netherlands Foundation)

05.02.2010 | International Toy Fair in Nuremberg: WECF presents international Coalition on safe Toys at International Toys Fair.

March 4, 2010 | Babies' bedrooms can pose significant threats to their health. Study on indoor air quality conducted in 4 European countries, which was presented by WECF during the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, Italy.

05.03.2010 | WECF responds to attack by Russian Asbestos Industry Association: The Russian Asbestos Industry attacks WECF for promoting substitution of chrysotile asbestos.

17.03.2010 | WECF Side Event at Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Parma, Italy: The Parma draft ministerial declaration says "we will strive to provide each child with access to safe water and sanitation in homes, child care centers, kindergartens, schools, health care institutions and public recreational water settings by 2020, and to revitalize hygiene practices.

15-19th March 2010 | Sixth Meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention: Indian delegate undermined work of the CRC on Endosulfan, and POP used worldwide.

23.03.2010 | Two Georgian NGO's, WECF Partner Greens Movement of Georgia and the Water Global Partnership of Georgia, organise a rally to clear the Alazani riverside in Telavi from rubbish on March 22, World Water day.

April 9, 2010 | WECF and Kyrgyz partner Unison postpone the Second Central Asian European International Forum on Climate Change in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

10.04.2010 | WECF's Golden Fuel Rod of April 2010 goes to German chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel: WECF Germany awards each month a person of public interest who has made an ignorant remark on nuclear energy. Nuclear power is again in Germany, since the elections, an issue of the public debate.

10.04.2010 | The Women and Gender constituency was discouraged by the COP15 outcomes, but committed to action. WECF, WEDO, Life e.V and Gender CC organised a joint press conference in Bonn during the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks.

20.04.2010 | AWHHE News from Armenia from WECF Partner AWHHE: Emergency situation around the burial site of obsolete and banned pesticides in Armenia

23.04.2010 | On April 26th this planet commemorates one of the saddest days in the history of humankind – the Chernobyl catastrophe. 24 years on and millions of people are still living and dealing with the consequences of this disaster.

24.04.2010 | New European Member States Romania and Bulgaria address looming impossibility of achieving their obligations under the EC Urban Waste Water Directive and Water Framework Directive – roundtable in Sofia looks at solutions.

18.05.2010 | WECF speakers demand a nuclear free climate agreement during the negotiations on the United Nations Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) taking place at UN Headquarters in New York, Bremley Lyngdoh on behalf of WECF and the indigenous people affected by uranium mining spoke during the Side Event.

21.06.2010 | Joint Press Release PAN Europe, WECF & PAN Germany Toxic shock: European Parliament to expand harmful products in the home?

29.07.2010 | UN decision to adopt water as human right underlines importance of core areas of WECF's work
Newly acquired human right is main step forward for the poor and vulnerable, in particular women and children.

06.08.2010 | Climate Negotiations more effective including women and gender awareness.

11.08.2010 | Forest fires are spreading in the Moscow region, getting closer to nuclear plants. Given the situation in Mayak and the risks linked to the expansion of forest fires into areas close to the Chernobyl, it is clear for WECF that so far the risks inherent to nuclear plants are not dealt with in a satisfying manner, all the more when coupled to climate change events such as heat waves and their subsequent wildfires.

22.09.2010 | the European Parliament (EP) has set the course for a new European system concerning the authorisation and marketing of biocides for household and other uses: PAN Germany, PAN Europe, HEAL, HCWH Europe, WECF and EEB criticise the EP vote on the biocide regulation.

29.09.2010 | Household Cleaning and Care Products. Guide to protect children and the environment by avoiding hazardous chemicals.

11.10. 2010 | Brussels – Some large European retailers such as Carrefour, Tesco and Media Markt/Saturn are not adequately protecting citizens from harmful chemicals in everyday products by failing to provide basic information they are legally obliged to under EU law.

15.10.2010 | For the first time in Russia a public open debate was held this week to discuss the accession of the Rotterdam Convention by the Russian Federation and the issue of chrysotile asbestos.

27.10.2010 | Aarhus Convention: First Task Force Meeting on Public Participation.

02.11.2010 | Annual Dniester River Conference held in Tiraspol on 15 and 16 October 2010.

11.11.2010 | REACH and the substitution of chemicals of concern: consumer protection, good practices and incentive measures.

17.11.2010 | Toxic free tips for last minute Saint Nicolas shopping!

19.11.2010 | WECF and Georgian partner RCDA celebrate World Toilet Day 2010 with opening of 30th school toilet, in a Georgian kindergarten.

22.11.2010 | International World Toilet Day – the first public Urine Diverting Dry Toilet in Western Georgia.

29.11.2010 | WECF one of the Health and Environment NGOs to comment on Bisphenol A ban NGOs respond to recent reports that the European Commission will ban the use of organic compound bisphenol A (BPA) in plastic baby bottles from 2011.

30.11.2010 | Intervention prepared by Sabine Bock, WECF Climate and Energy coordinator, at UNFCCC COP 16 Cancun for the Women and Gender Constituency.

30.11.2010 | Humanitarian Project in Prislop, Romania – Support is still needed!

30.11.2010 | Seminar in Bulgaria dedicated to first constructed wetland in Bulgaria. Seminar for professionals and authorities during the construction of the first constructed wetland in Bulgaria – a sustainable waste water system.

30.11.2010 | Coalition for Climate Justice – An alliance of sustainable development organisations as Women in Europe for a Common Future, Interface for Cycling Expertise, Global Forest.

30.11.2010 | Way to Cancun: Mexico zet fietsen in op klimaatop WECF coalitiepartner I-CE, Interface for Cycling Expertise, ondersteunt fietsevenement op 6 December.

21.12.2010 | the Environment Council of the European Union adopted its political agreement on a new authorisation system for household pesticides and other biocides. Environment and health NGOs, PAN Europe, PAN Germany, HEAL, WECF, HCWH Europe, IEW and PAN UK, sharply criticize the EU environment ministers' approach because their decision will allow continued wide circulation of highly toxic consumer products on the market.

Dutch press releases

19.02.2010 | WECF and nine partners present at start up meeting Project Nesting the Netherlands.

05.03.2010 | Binnenlucht: verborgen gevaar in baby's slaapkamer – Een ongeveer-tileerde baby kamer is een serieuze bedreiging voor de gezondheid van de baby. Dit is de uitkomst van een onderzoek naar de binnenluchtkwaliteit in kinderkamers dat gelijktijdig is uitgevoerd in 4 Europese landen.

05.08.2010 | WECF start campagne en website voor jonge ouders om consumenten en retailers bewust te maken over het gebruik van nanotechnologie in alledaagse consumptieartikelen.

27.08.2010 | Wie wint de SBO Borstvoedingsprijs in 2010? Tot 1 september nomineren! De Borstvoedingsprijs 2010, een prachtig beeldje van een voedende moeder, is bedoeld voor de persoon of organisatie die zich de afgelopen periode bijzonder verdienstelijk heeft gemaakt voor de bevordering van borstvoeding in Nederland.

26 oktober 2010 | Utrecht, Vrouwen- en milieustrategie WECF lanceert interactief spel met tips voor een veilig en schoon 'babyproof' binnenmilieu - WECF -Women in Europe for a Common Future – ontwikkelde interactief spel om op een eenvoudige manier te laten zien hoe je kunt werken aan een veilig en milieuvriendelijk, babyproof' huis.

17.11.2010 | VARA, Nederland 2, Toxic free tips for last minute Saint Nicolas shopping! Laatst tips voor hulpsin-terklazen in zoektocht naar gifvrij speelgoed.

French Press Releases

02.03.2010 | A l'occasion de la journée internationale de la femme, le 8 mars 2010 « Comment changer le monde avec les femmes? L'association With Women, en collaboration avec l'Office des Nations Unies de Genève et le PNUD, invite Coline Serreau à présenter son nouveau film dans la grande Salle des Assemblées du Palais des nations à Genève

23.04.2010 | Commémoration des 24 ans de la Catastrophe de Tchernobyl. La catastrophe de Tchernobyl continue d'avoir, 24 ans après, des conséquences dramatiques pour les populations les plus touchées, en Ukraine, au Belarus et en Russie, mais aussi dans le monde entier.

11.08.2010 | Russie: Feux de forêts et sites nucléaires: comment éviter le pire? Les feux de forêt dans la région de Moscou se propagent et menacent des sites nucléaires, dont le site de Mayak, zone de stockage de déchets nucléaires, déjà victime d'un Accident Nucléaire Majeur en 1957.

13.09.2010 | Des ateliers NESTING à la Clinique Belledonne: Lundi 6 septembre, WECF France a certifié onze sages-femmes

de la Clinique Belledonne de l'agglomération grenobloise, qui ont suivi une formation longue pour animer des ateliers Nesting auprès des femmes enceintes et des futurs parents.

22.11.2010 | Le colloque organisé par WECF au Pavillon de l'Eau a réuni des acteurs variés: fabricants et distributeurs de jouets, organismes de certification, mais aussi scientifiques, décideurs politiques, ONG et associations de protection des consommateurs autour d'un vrai sujet de santé publique: l'exposition des enfants à des substances chimiques très préoccupantes à travers les jouets.

06.12.2010 | Cancún – Alors que s'ouvre ici à Cancún le segment ministériel de la Conférence mondiale sur le climat, la présidence Mexicaine a réussi le pari d'instaurer un processus transparent et constructif au sein de la négociation.

24.12.2010 | Ceux qui croyaient assister à la mort des négociations mondiales sur le climat en sont pour leurs frais. Certes, le climat n'a pas été sauvé ce soir à Cancún, mais l'arène des négociations a été renforcée et la confiance rétablie.

German press releases

28.01.2010 | Tauziehen um die solare Zukunft: Gegen die Pläne der Bundesregierung für eine vorzeitige „Anpassung“ der Solarstromvergütung mobilisierte die Münchner Umweltschutzorganisation Green City zusammen mit weiteren Umweltschutzverbänden die Münchner Bürgerinnen und Bürger.

04.02.2010 | Gift im Spielzeug Internationale Koalition zur Spielzeugsicherheit gründet sich auf Initiative von WECF. Während die Spielzeugindustrie auf der 61. Internationalen Spielzeugmesse in Nürnberg ihre Neuheiten feiert, werden Millionen Kinder weltweit giftigen Schadstoffen in Spielzeug ausgesetzt.

10.02.2010 | Mit dem Goldenen Brennstab des Monats prämiiert die Umwelt- und Frauenorganisation WECF (Women in Europe for Common Future) jeden Monat eine Person öffentlichen Interesses für einen herausragenden Ausspruch zum Thema Kernenergie.

12.04.2010 | 8000 anti-nuclear activists demonstrate in 53 cities: Am 10. April gab es in München, wie auch an über 50 weiteren Standorten im ganzen Land Menschenketten für den Atomausstieg.

13.-15.05.2010 | Ökumenischer Kirchentag in München Gemeinsamer Stand von WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future, Mütter gegen Atomkraft e.V. und projekt21plus. Nachhaltiges Leben, Wirtschaften und der Klimawandel sind Schwerpunktthemen auf dem ökumenischen Kirchentag in München.

09.06.2010 | WECF supports today's warnings from the German Federal Environment Agency about the risks of Bisphenol A (BPA): WECF – begrüßt den heute vom Umweltbundesamt (UBA)

veröffentlichten Hintergrundbericht zu Bisphenol A (BPA) und die darin enthaltenen Warnungen des UBA vor der hormonartig wirkenden Chemikalie.

15.06.2010 | "Women are more and in different ways affected by climate change". Frauen sind vom Klimawandel heftiger betroffen als Männer. WECF fordert, Frauen stärker in den Prozess der Klimastrategien mit einzubeziehen.

08.09.2010 | Goldener Brennstab des Monats“ an Frau Dr. Angela Merkel, Bundeskanzlerin und CDU-Parteivorsitzende.

28.10.2010 | Nach neuesten haarsträubenden Testergebnissen der Stiftung Warentest und zwei Jahre nach der Novellierung der Spielzeugrichtlinie kommt wieder einmal Bewegung in die Politik. Bundeswirtschaftsminister Brüderle (FDP) ließ gestern in einer Pressemitteilung verlauten, dass der Schutz der Kinder für ihn höchste Priorität habe, weshalb an Nachbesserungen der Spielzeugrichtlinie kein Weg vorbei führe.

09.11.2010 | Wenn Umwelt krank macht – Umweltbelastung und Brustkrebs. WECF und AKF nehmen mit der neuen Broschüre „Die verkannte Gefahr – Umweltbelastung und Brustkrebs“ den Zusammenhang von Umweltbelastungen und Brustkrebs unter die Lupe und fordern mehr politisches Engagement.

18.11.2010 | Diskussionsveranstaltung: Die Kernfrage –WECF Germany e.V. und das BayernForum der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung laden ein zu einer etwas anderen Diskussionsveranstaltung zu den Auswirkungen der Kernenergie.

06.12.2010 | Die Nichtregierungsorganisation WECF geht europaweit in die Offensive: Thema der Kampagne „Safe toys“ sind die immer noch zuhauf in Spielzeug enthaltenen Gifte.

Press coverage international

15.03.2010 | Countries pledge to eradicate asbestos diseases Ends daily reports on WECF's work at Ministerial Conference in Parma. Fiftythree countries in the World Health Organisation's Europe region including the EU's 27 member states plus Russia, Ukraine and Turkey pledged to eliminate asbestos-related diseases at a meeting on environment and health in Parma, Italy.

21.03.2010 | The Lancet, Volume 375, Issue 9719, Interview in The Lancet with WECF Executive Director Sascha Gabizon European ministers signed a declaration on environmental health last. Health and environment ministers of the 53 nations of the WHO European region, stretching from Greenland to Vladivostok, and the Arctic to the Caspian Sea, met for their fifth summit in Parma, Italy, for the first time, agreed to set deadlines for improvements in environmental health across this diverse region.

19.10.2010 | The Japan Times, NAGOYA — The Monday start of the COP10 conference was marked by strong differences over how to ensure fair access to genetic resources and how to demarcate terrestrial and marine areas for protection under a new environmental protocol.



Financial Report

“When being in our project countries, it makes me very happy to see that the seeds we have sown during the trainings, visits and personal contact have been growing and developing in the minds of people and in their actions

Regina Drexel, projects coordinator

Financial year 2010

The financial year 2010 showed the effect of the global financial and economic crisis with a reduction of spending by main donors of WECF. This resulted in a reduction in income and expenses of 36% compared to the financial year 2009.

WECF further invested in a diversification of its funding sources. Access to large programme funding has become more and more difficult with an increased competition not only from other non-governmental organisations but also from international multilateral agencies. It was only towards the end of 2010, that a 4-year multi-country programme was approved by the European Commission, the final decision on the 5-year funding from the Netherlands government is awaited by mid-2011. The process of integration of the financial systems in the three WECF offices was further brought forward as increasingly funding comes via the WECF offices in Germany and France.

The third and last year of the "Empowerment and Local Action - ELA" programme, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation was implemented in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. More than 43,000 low-income people obtained access to innovative, sustainable, water and sanitation, energy and agricultural systems, in addition the drinking water quality of 300,000 people was monitored, thus exceeding the programme objectives. This last year was a year of monitoring and sharing of the best practices and lessons learned with practitioners and policy makers. In total 50 schooltoilet buildings were built. More than 40 participants from partner organisations participated in the Knowledge Exchange and Network conference in Tatarbunary, Ukraine in September 2010. A total of € 784,099 was spent on further improving and finishing of demonstration projects, capacity building, training, policy development, monitoring and evaluations, up scaling activities and sharing of the lessons learned.

The safe energy and climate protection program (€ 174,564) co-funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Government and the European Commission found great interest from partners and policy makers. WECF and partners organised four more practical trainings on how to construct solar collectors in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The solar collectors provide hot water for sanitation and heating-support. French students participated in the programme, and continued support was provided by a German solar company. The cooperation with Atmosfair to identify projects for funding from the global carbon finance market also continued.

In the last month of 2010, a 4-year contract with the European Commission EuropAid for a renewable energy programme in 7 EECCA countries was signed.

The lessons from the renewable energy and climate work were presented to policy makers at the 2nd Climate Forum in Almaty, Kazakhstan which was organised by WECF and partner Unison from Kyrgyzstan, representatives of the national authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan took part. Policy recommendations from the forum were presented to the high-level EU-Central Asian working group on Climate, Water and Environment in Brussels, in October 2010, and to the delegates at the UNFCCC Climate negotiations in Bonn (June) and Cancun (December).

WECF obtained continued funding (€288,290) for its annual work plan from the European Commission DG Environment, which allowed the continuation of the European policy activities as well as the network activities, including the network conference in Tatabunary, Ukraine (September 2010), contributions to the network meeting during the 5th Health and Environment conference in Parma (March 2010), and the training sessions and policy conferences organised by the working groups on safe chemicals and waste, safe food and biodiversity, safe water and sanitation, safe energy and climate protection, and gender equity and environmental rights.

Funding by the Ministries of Environment and Health of Austria, Denmark, Germany*, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden (€75,290) allowed WECF to organise the Children's Environmental Health Good Practice Award, in preparation of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Italy, which received more than 130 entries from over 34 countries at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, March 2010.

The EU support alongside funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Economy also allowed WECF to expand and continue the WECF awareness raising tool "Nesting" – a programme that targets young parents on how to create a healthy and safe environment for their new born child, and the international "safe toys campaign". The workshops by educated "nesting" trainers for parents and midwives in France attracted 600-700 participants. WECF organised two "Safe Toys" events in Berlin and Paris, leading to extensive press coverage, a contribution to the hearing on toys safety in the German Parliament, and to cooperation with progressive toys companies on non-chemical alternatives and to the international Safe Toys coalition with civil society partners. In the Netherlands, the "nano-in-the-baby-room" project (€ 84,865) with its website of video interviews of retailers and consumers and public dialogue events contributed to further information for parents and the 3-year programme on children indoor environment started in 2010 (SMOM €107,400), focussing on substituting harmful chemicals in children products. Furthermore, the activities on (chemical) product safety of children's products could be extended to WECF partners in the Balkan countries through a new project from the European Commission EuropeAid which started in late 2010.

The 2-year project on asbestos and POPS in Kazakhstan, supported by the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry of Environment, was finalized in 2010, and 2 new awareness raising projects about risks and alternatives to chrysotile asbestos funded by the same donors started in Kyrgyzstan and Russia, including the high level policy conference in Moscow in October 2010. A 2 year project on safe and environmental alternatives for hazardous pesticides and asbestos funded by the Quick Start Program of SAICM (in total \$ 172,210) started in mid 2010 in Georgia.

The 3-year projects on democracy building and sustainable development in Belarus and Moldova, funded by the MATRA programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs both ended in 2010 (€300,985). Twenty demonstration projects were carried by local communities, showing best practices in the areas of solid waste management, sanitation, water protection, energy saving and composting and sharing lessons learned and recommendations with policy makers.

The 3 year programme "Safe Sanitation, Health and Dignity" funded by Fondation Ensemble France also ended in 2010 (€ 57,752), led to demonstrations of sustainable low-cost wastewater treatment and sanitation for over 25 communities in Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

The water and sanitation working group contributed to European and international policy processes through contributions to the ministerial policy document of the 5th ministerial conference on environment and health in Parma (March 2010), the high level dia-

logue on sustainable waste water solutions for communities with less than 10,000 inhabitants in Sofia (April 2010), the side event, presentation of lessons learned, at the World Water Week in Stockholm (September 2010), a presentation of case studies to the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation (October 2010) and presentations at the MOP2 of the Protocol on Water and Health in Bucharest (November 2010). These events were made possible through funding from different sources including the EU DG Environment contribution and the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt.

The working group on safe food and biodiversity received support by the Polish-German Batori Foundation* which made it possible to organize a visit of Polish mayors and farmers to the German region of Glonn, Bavaria, to promote cooperation for sustainable rural development. The EU DG environment funding provided additional support for WECF working group promoting agro-biodiversity and supporting regions to develop guidelines on how to become GMO-free.

A donation from the UK environmental sanitary product company "NatraCare" (£ 6,000) supported a project on school sanitation for girls and boys in Tajikistan.

Income from the sales of the WECF book the "Critical Question – nuclear fuel chain" in Germany provided funds to continue WECF's awareness raising on the costs and risks of nuclear energy and uranium mining, including 2 main events, one on harm to indigenous peoples and the environment from uranium mining at the CSD18 in New York – which received co-funding from the Heinrich Böll Foundation (€9,325) in May 2010, and one in Munich with filmmakers and a former "liquidator" of Chernobyl co-funded by the FES* in November 2010.

Outlook 2011

As four large multi-annual programmes terminated in 2010 and the effects of the economic and financial crisis have affected funding programmes from WECF's main donors, the budget for 2011 amounts to 1,500,000 Euro, which is a further 21% reduction compared to 2010. Measures have been taken to limit expenses and further diversify funding sources, in particular through the German and French WECF offices. A new 4-year multi-country programme on renewable energy, and two smaller projects on energy & sanitation and consumer protection and safety, funded by the European Commission have started, the final decision on the 5 year funding application to the Netherlands government is expected mid-2011. WECF expects several funding applications to be granted for its coordinating role in the preparations at global level in the preparations of the Rio+20 summit in 2012. WECF will continue to invest in fundraising efforts with social-responsible enterprises and the general public to increase its share of project-independent resources.

Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director WECF

Activities marked with an * are (partly) funded through WECF Germany or WECF France and not or only partial included in the financial accounts.

The Board of Trustees met three times in 2010. The tight financial situation, fundraising and the future direction of WECF were the main discussion items. A separate meeting was held between the Treasurer, the Director and relevant staff to discuss the annual accounts 2009, the budget 2010 and changes in the financial systems. The Vice-President, who is an expert in HRM, visited the office several times to discuss HRM and fundraising opportunities.

The full impact of the global financial crisis for the non-profit sector became clear in 2010. While in 2009 many organizations, including WECF, still had sufficient funding available to continue most activities, funding declined as well in 2010. The Dutch Government, traditionally the largest donor of WECF, introduced substantial cut-backs on subsidies in various areas. Examples are the SMOM programme from the Ministry of Environment which has been abandoned completely while MATRA funding will in future only be available to local organizations and hence does no longer fund organizations from the Netherlands or other EU countries. The biggest drawback for the coming years is the rejection of the MFS II proposal of the Coalition of Climate Justice which was prepared by WECF in cooperation with three coalition partners. An appeal against this decision is still ongoing.

There was good news as well, late 2010 three more EU projects were approved. New funding sources include UNEP/SAICM and a six months grant of the Nanopodium in the Netherlands.

The German Ministry of Environment donated several smaller grants. These additional funding sources combined with tight financial planning made it possible to overcome the initial foreseen cash flow problems.

There were no changes in the board composition in 2010 nor in the statutes of the foundation. The members of the Board of Trustees do not receive a compensation for their work. Travel expenses are reimbursed based upon actual costs. In 2010 a total of € 3,508 on reimbursements was paid.

Outlook 2011

Fundraising remains an important topic on the agenda, additional attention will be given to alternative funding sources especially private foundations and exploring the small scale commercial activities (advisory/ consultancy work).

Lack of funding makes it necessary to reduce the number of staff members. While some staff members already left late 2010 others will leave in the first half of 2011. Ensuring enough cash flow will remain a point of attention in 2011.

Summary accountability statement

In 2010 WECF obtained a 'CBF geen bezwaar verklaring', WECF hopes to expand this certification to a full CBF seal. One of the criteria for the CBF seal is that the governing board (and, if applicable, the supervisory body) is obliged to draw up an accountability statement based upon the main principles of good governance.

1. The distinction between 'supervisory' role (adopting or approving plans and critically monitoring the organization and its results) and the 'managerial' role or the 'executive' role"
2. Optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditures.
3. Optimizing the relation with stakeholders

1. Distinction between supervisory role, managerial role and executive role

In line with the statutes of WECF the Netherlands the following roles can be distinguished:

- Supervisory board
- Board of Director(s)
- International Advisory board

Activities of the International Advisory Board will be presented under paragraph 3, optimizing the relations with stakeholders.

The Supervisory board

The Supervisory board met three times in 2010. In March the draft financial report 2009 was discussed and a revised budget 2010 was presented. The discussions focussed on the risks of not obtaining MFS funding for 2011- 2015, it was decided that the management team would prepare different financial scenarios for the next meeting. Other topics discussed included liquidity, fundraising, quality management and an update of upcoming events. A special meeting was held between the treasurer, the auditor, the director and two staff members to discuss the financial report 2009. In May different scenarios and forecasts for 2011 were discussed, it was decided to inform all staff members about the insecure financial situation of the organization. In August updates on fundraising and liquidity were provided, the midterm financial report was presented. The board adopts the proposed plan for downsizing.

The Board of Director(s)

Currently WECF the Netherlands has one appointed one Executive Director. For the day to day management a management team has been formed including the Executive Director, the Directors of WECF Germany and WECF France and the Manager Support Unit. The management team has met 3 times face to face and several more times by phone. The team prepares plans, budgets and reports for the supervisory board.

Programmes are executed through the coordinators meeting and project teams.

2. Optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditures

The Strategic Approach 2010-2015 shows the direction of the programmes. Project applications are written within the boundaries of the Strategic Approach, during the board meetings the board gets an update on outstanding and approved applications whereby the large, financially crucial, projects and high level policy work gets additional attention. As WECF works on a project base there are frequent budget changes, the budget is therefore a recurrent item on the agenda of the supervisory board.

At implementation level projects and budgets are delegated to the thematic and project coordinators. A coordinators meeting is held at least four times a year, either face to face or via skype. During those meetings progress and budget depletion are discussed. Basic indicators are gathered.

3. Optimizing the relation with stakeholders

WECF is a network of member organisations with similar aims of promoting sustainable development, environmental health, poverty reduction, resource protection, gender equity and human rights and public participation. Membership organisations join forces in policy advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building and demonstrating alternatives. Members of the network are represented in by the International Advisory Board (IAB). IAB members are elected bi-annually during the General Assembly. The role of the IAB includes:

- Providing strategic directions and priorities
- Membership policy, including screening and approval of new members
- Oversee and maintain accountability for the activities of the network. To communicate to the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees and members on key policy and strategic matters

- To represent the network at different events
- Bringing in a thematic and regional/international perspective to WECF
- Representing WECF core values and building enthusiasm for the WECF network

In 2010 the IAB met twice. In September 2010 a network membership meeting was conducted. As not all members could attend the meeting new IAB members were elected through an e-mail voting procedure.

Utrecht, 27 May 2011

Christine von Weizsäcker,	President
Bert Kuiten,	Treasurer
Marjon Reiziger,	Vice-president
Grietje Zeeman,	Member
Marianne Nugteren,	Member

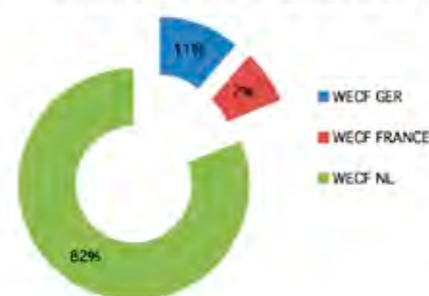
Notes on the Financial statements

1 Introduction

This chapter gives a summarized account of the costs and income and financial position of WECF in 2010, and expected financial position for WECF in 2011.

The three offices of WECF are all independent legal entities and therefore there is no legal base for a consolidated report. On the next page we present a pro forma consolidated balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenses of the three offices over 2010 and 2009. After elimination of internal revenues and expenses the contribution per office can be illustrated as follows.

Revenue per WECF office 2010



The report on operations in this financial statements concerns solely the operations of WECF in the Netherlands where the financial report is audited. The consolidated pro forma balance sheet and statement of revenues and expenses were not audited.

2 Stichting WECF the Netherlands

From 2008 till 2010 WECF received a grant from the MFS programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The total grant amounted € 5 million and covered 62% of the total revenues 2008-2010.

In 2010 WECF spent a total of € 1.9 million of which € 1.6 million was spent on its strategic objectives. This means that 84.0% (2009 85.5%) is spent on actual program work. Internally WECF strives to keep this percentage around 85%. Mainly because of the time and resources that were needed in the MFSII proposal this objective was not met in 2010. Historically the income structure for WECF is based on the the receival of grants and subsidies from governments and private foundations. For this reason the expenses related to acquiring grants and subsidies only comprise the salary costs of employees writing proposals for grants. WECF has limited resources installed to raise funds under private persons or institutions.

The accounts are prepared according to the Directive 650 for Annual Reporting for fundraising institutions.

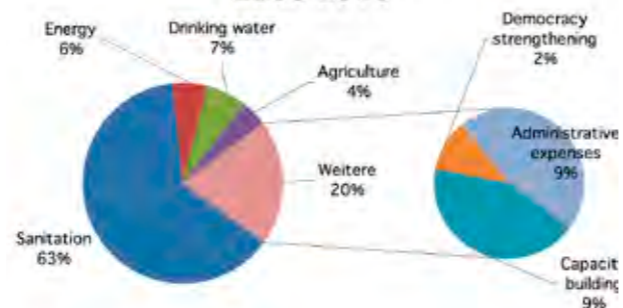
3 Countries we work in

Under the MFS grant WECF had partner projects for the three year period. The partner expenses are allocated to the countries as well as per theme and can be explained in the following graphics

MFS partner projects 2008-2010

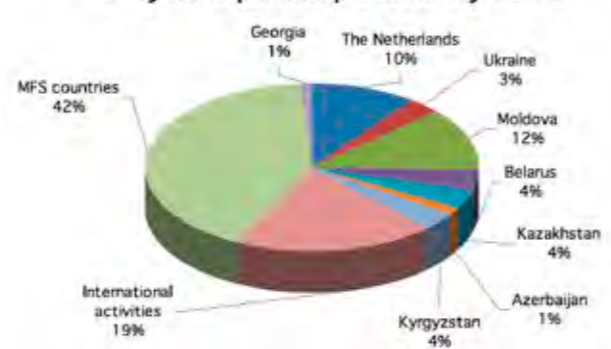


MFS Partner Expenses per theme 2008-2010



The relation between the project costs for MFS and the other countries and projects can be illustrated as follows. International activities include international skill sharing as well as international conferences and lobby activities like the Children's Environmental Health Good Practice Award at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Italy, the COP4 of the Rotterdam Convention, the

Project expenses per country 2010



Unaudited Pro forma consolidated balance sheet

December 31, 2010 in EUR
(after proposed appropriation of the result)

Assets	2010	2009
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	5.851	20.157
Current assets		
Receivables and prepayments (2)	387.439	351.530
Cash at banks and in hand (3)	203.699	365.074
	591.138	716.604
Total assets	596.989	736.761
Capital and liabilities		
Capital (4)		
Continuity reserve	77.438	71.129
Current liabilities		
Work in progress (5)		
Project expenses	-484.090	-5.391.843
Advance payments	759.731	5.738.997
	275.641	347.154
Trade payables (6)	157.490	239.883
Payables from related parties (7)	45.000	0
	41.420	78.595
Total capital and liabilities	519.551	665.632
	596.989	736.761

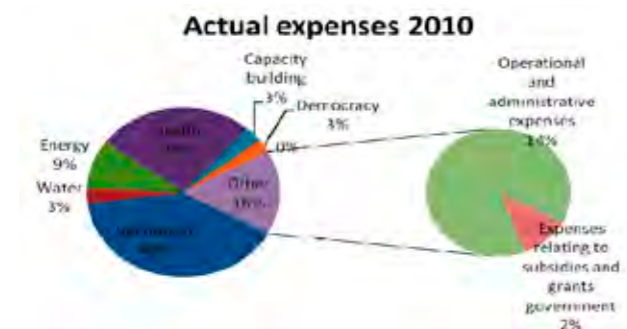
Unaudited Pro forma consolidated statement of revenue and expenditure

The period ended december 31, 2010 (EUR)

Source of Income (1)	Actual 2010	Budget 2010	Actual 2009
Income from received grants governments	2.195.152	2.343.884	3.177.958
Contributions from private foundations	87.077	52.752	69.753
Other income	61.995	0	48.889
Total income	2.344.224	2.396.636	3.296.600
Expenses (2)			
Sanitation	768.502	583.526	1.285.436
Water	54.660	150.493	374.655
Energy	178.925	250.113	432.711
Health	859.913	602.726	556.632
Capacity building	54.558	106.603	73.300
Democracy	49.145	65.985	110.919
Expenses relating to objectives	1.965.703	1.759.446	2.833.653
Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	33.531	36.732	40.208
Operational and administrative expenses	338.645	600.458	387.795
Total expenses	2.337.879	2.396.636	3.261.656
Result	6.345	0	34.944

COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the COP16, The United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The overall expenses per theme can be explained as follows:



The actual expenditures per theme were strongly influenced by the MFS expenses which focused for the greater part on sanitation projects under Target MDG7C: "By 2015, halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation."

4 The financial position per 31 December 2010

Based upon an updated risk assessment and the financial statements WECF aims at a continuity reserve of € 200.000. As per the end of 2010 the actual continuity reserve was 33,5% of the desired reserve. WECF strives to improve its working capital through raising funds that can be allocated to the continuity reserve.

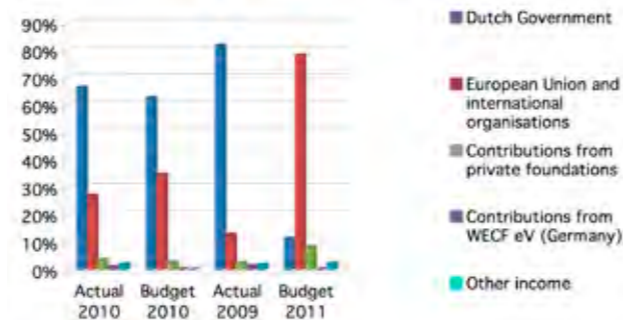
5 Future developments

The financial outlook for 2011 has been derived from the WECF Strategic Approach 2010-2015, taking into account new developments such as the economic crisis in Europe and the uncertainties surrounding future financing. Growth expectations have been adjusted downwards.

The total capacity of personnel is critically followed. Depending on newly acquired projects special additional flexible capacity, including field staff, might be required.

6 Budget 2011

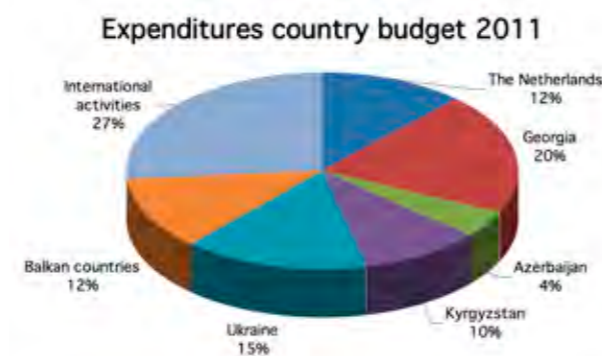
The donor base of WECF is changing rapidly; while it depended for 60% upon sources from the Dutch Government in 2010, this percentage will decrease to less than 10% in 2011. The expectations for the resources in 2011 are as follows.



Source of income budget 2011:

Dutch Government	€ 169,705	11%
Other governments	285,723	19%
International organizations	888,778	59%
Businesses	21,900	2%
Private foundations	124,167	8%
Private individuals	5,000	0%
Other	5,000	0%
Total	€ 1.500.273	100%

The increased global attention to the effects of climate change has increased our work for this theme as well. The most important theme from WECF has been from the start health issues concerning mothers and children. Our activities for 2011 in the Netherlands, France and Germany concern the further implementation of the Nesting project. In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan we continue with EU funding to raise awareness on asbestos. In addition WECF was able to acquire funding for a healthy toys project in the Balkan area. Activities in the area of water and sanitation will focus on Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan.



Key figures

Financial overview 2007-2010								
	Actual 2010		Actual 2009		Actual 2008		Actual 2007*)	
(x € 1.000)		%		%		%		%
Source of Income								
Grants governments	1.823	95%	2.850	95%	3.001	96%	2.280	95%
WECF eV.	18	1%	40	1%	0	0%	0	0%
private foundations	67	3%	70	2%	121	4%	114	5%
Other	11	1%	27	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	1.915	100%	2.987	100%	3.122	100%	2.395	100%
Expenses relating to objectives								
Sanitation	768	40%	1.285	43%	1.233	34%	n.b.	
Water	55	3%	375	13%	280	8%	n.b.	
Energy	179	9%	280	9%	236	6%	n.b.	
Health & Agriculture	506	26%	402	14%	247	7%	n.b.	
Capacity building	54	3%	73	2%	334	9%	N.B.	
Democracy & Gender	49	3%	111	4%	121	3%	N.B.	
Total objectives	1.612	84%	2.527	86%	3.118	85%	1.877	78%
Organisational costs								
Result	307	16%	428	14%	544	15%	518	22%
	0		32		3		-1	
Balance sheet 2007-2010								
Assets								
Fixed assets	1		11		22		30	
Current assets	518		589		388		448	
Total	519		600		410		478	
Capital & Liabilities								
Capital	67		67		34		31	
Current liabilities	452		533		376		447	
Total	519		600		410		478	
Ratio's								
Solvability %(equity/total assets)	12.9		11.2		8.3		6.5	
Current ratio (current assets /current liabilities)	1.15		1.11		1.0		1.0	

Other key figures

Number of board members	5	5	4	4
Number of IAB members	12	12	12	12
Number of member organizations	123	114	92	92
Number of employees all offices	18	20	18	n.b
Number of approved project audits	4	3	4	3

*) The annual accounts 2007 were not yet drawn up in accordance with RJ 650

Balance sheet					
December 31, 2010 (EUR) (after proposed appropriation of the result)					
Assets		2010		2009	
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets (1)			1.138		10.865
Current assets					
Receivables and prepayments (2)		374.760		412.894	
Cash at banks and in hand (3)		130.838		179.425	
			505.598		592.319
Total assets			506.736		603.184
Capital and liabilities					
Capital (4)					
Continuity reserve			67.187		66.774
Current liabilities					
Work in progress (5)					
Project expenses	-357.706			-5.221.699	
Advance payments	632.929			5.515.571	
		275.223		293.872	
Trade payables (6)		122.906		213.708	
Payables from related parties (7)		41.420		28.830	
			439.549		536.410
Total capital and liabilities			506.736		603.184

Statement of revenue and expenditure			
The period ended december 31, 2010 (EUR)			
Source of Income (1)	Actual 2010	Budget 2010	Actual 2009
Income from received grants governments	1.822.887	1.979.252	2.850.173
Contributions from WECF eV.	18.179	0	39.391
Contributions from private foundations	67.077	52.752	69.753
Other income	11.894	0	27.603
Total income	1.920.037	2.032.004	2.986.920
Expenses (2)			
Sanitation	768.502	583.526	1.285.436
Water	54.660	150.493	374.655
Energy	178.925	250.113	280.222
Health	506.494	238.093	402.325
Capacity building	54.558	106.603	73.300
Democracy	49.145	65.985	110.919
Expenses relating to objectives	1.612.285	1.394.814	2.526.858
Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	33.531	36.732	40.208
Operational and administrative expenses	273.808	600.458	387.609
Total expenses	1.919.624	2.032.004	2.954.674
Result	413	0	32.246

Cash flow statement		
The period ended december 31, 2010 (EUR)		
	Actual 2010	Actual 2009
Net result	413	32.246
<i>Non-cash items recognized in statement of revenue and expenditure :</i>		
Depreciation	9.727	12.371
<i>Net change in operating assets and liabilities:</i>		
Work in progress	-14.157	116.197
Receivables and prepayments	13.790	-70.215
Current liabilities	-58.360	41.663
Cash Inflows from Operational Activities (A)	-48.887	132.262
<i>Cash flows from investing activities (B)</i>		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	0	-1.498
Net (Increase)/Decrease in Cash (A+B)	-48.587	130.764
Movements in cash and cash equivalents		
Opening balance cash and cash equivalents	179.425	48.661
Increase cash and cash equivalents	-48.587	130.764
Closing balance cash and cash equivalents	130.838	179.425

General notes on the Financial statements

Introduction

The statutory name of the foundation (legal form) is Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF). The latest statutes are dated 3 November 2009. According to the statutes the object of the Foundation is:

- promoting a healthy living environment for everyone;
- promoting the equal development and use of women's potential for the above-mentioned object;
- cooperation between women in social organizations, in the field of the environment, health and sustainable development, approached from a gender perspective;
- carrying out joint projects and other activities in this field, such as influencing policy;
- creating a network of national and regional organizations or sector organizations that endorse the above object.

Board of Directors

The director of the Foundations is Ms. S. Gabizon. The foundation also has a Supervisory Board and an International Advisory Board. The remuneration policy regarding directors is under progress with the Supervisory Board and will be implemented in 2011. So far a fixed management fee with the director was agreed upon.

Board of Trustees

The Supervisory Board of WECF is a board of trustees, supervising the board of directors:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| • Christine von Weizsäcker | President |
| • Marjon Reiziger | Vice-president |
| • Bert Kuitert | Treasurer |
| • Grietje Zeeman | Member |
| • Marianne Nugteren | Member |

International Advisory Board

The IAB sets the strategic direction of WECF and prepares the annual workplan. The members of the IAB were elected by the WECF members at the General Members Meeting on October 2010 in Tatarbunari. The IAB has been elected for a period of 3 years.

- Therese van Gijn President, The Netherlands
- Svetlana Slesarenok, Co-Chair, Ukraine
- Diana Iskrea, working group leader, Bulgaria
- Anna Tsvetkova, co-working group leader, Ukraine
- Nadeshda Kutepova, working group leader, Russia
- Kaisha Atakhanova, co-working group leader, Kazakhstan
- Victoria Elias, co-working group leader, Russia
- Elizbieta Priwiezienczew, working group leader, Poland
- Helen Lynn, working group leader, UK
- Elena Manvelian, co-working group leader, Armenia
- Rostom Gamisonia co-working group leader, Georgia
- Mihaela Vasilescu co-working group leader, Romania

WECF network and goals

WECF is a network of 125 women's and environmental organisations in 43 countries of which 37 are Western European and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe & Caucasus & Central Asia) and 6 other countries. WECF was officially registered in 1994. WECF has three coordinating offices in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

WECF strives for a Healthy Environment for All. We strive for a balancing environment, health and economy, taking different needs and perspectives of women and men into account. WECF's activities are based in its partners own visions and needs.

Therefore, WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally. To reach this overarching goal WECF works on four long-term goals:

- Safe and Sustainable Energy and Climate protection for All
- Safe Chemicals and Waste Management for All
- Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All
- Safe Food Production and Rural Development for All

Cross-cutting issues are Gender Equity in Sustainable Development, Environment Rights and Public Participation.

WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities, is people focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts.

Summary of significant accounting policies

General

As from book year 2008 the financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands pursuing RJ 650 (Fund Raising Organizations). The purpose of this set of accounting principles is to enhance the insight on the expenses of the organization itself and in the expenditures directly related to the strategic goals of the foundation. Assets and liabilities are stated at face value, unless indicated otherwise.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euro at year-end exchange rates; exchange gains and losses are charged to the Statement of revenue and expenditures. Transactions in foreign currencies during the financial year are translated into euro at the rate of exchange ruling on transaction date.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at historical purchase price less depreciation, determined on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful economic lives of the assets concerned, taking into account any residual values.

Work in progress

As in earlier years the foundation uses the accounting principle for work in progress relating to grant agreements which have a grant operating period exceeding 1 year or in case the implementing project period is not equal the book year. This means the remaining balance in the balance sheet concerning the work in progress consists of both expenses and the received amounts in advance from the grant authorities relating to the book year.

Receivables or liabilities arising from finalized grant agreements are presented within the current liabilities or the current receivables. Receivables are valued at face value less a provision for possible uncollectible amounts.

Principles of determination of result

General

The result is determined as the difference between income generated by grants, contributions, membership fees and others, and

the costs and other charges for the year. Income is recognized in the year in which it is realized.

Costs

Costs are recognized at the historical cost convention and are allocated to the reporting year to which they relate. Depreciation is provided by the straight-line method over the estimated useful economic life.

Operational and administrative expenses

The operational and administrative expenses are calculated based on the model that is published by the Vereniging van Fondsenwerende instellingen. The operational and administrative expenses consist of overhead expenses and staff expenses that cannot be directly allocated to themes and projects.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared applying the indirect method.

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2010		
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	2010	2009
Net book value at January 1,	10.865	21.738
Additions	0	1.498
Depreciation charge for the year	-9.727	-12.371
Net book value at December 31	1.138	10.865
Cost	35.017	35.017
Accumulated depreciation	-33.879	-24.152
Net book value at December 31	1.138	10.865
<i>The tangible fixed assets consist of ICT equipment only and are depreciated over the estimated useful economic life of 3 years.</i>		

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2010		
Current assets		
Receivables and prepayments (2)	31-12-2010	31-12-2009
Final Grants to be received, see also overview under (5)	300.892	141.794
Women in Europe for a Common Future eV (Germany)	0	93.079
Advances paid to partner organisations	44.223	121.809
Fondation Women in Europe for a Common Future (France)	16.000	34.765
Interest	2.538	8.063
Pension costs	1.972	2.825
Other receivables	9.135	10.559
	374.760	412.894
Cash at banks and in hand (3)	31-12-2010	31-12-2009
Current account Rabobank	78.825	165.752
Current account Rabobank, US-dollar	49.495	0
Current account ABN AMRO Bank	2.402	13.457
Cash in hand	116	216
	130.838	179.425
<i>Cash at banks and in hand are available on demand.</i>		

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2010		
Capital		
Continuity Reserve (4)	2010	2009
Balance at January 1,	66.774	34.528
Appropriation of net result	413	32.246
Balance at December 31	67.187	66.774

The Foundation wants to ensure sustainability of the organization so that its international network is not affected. Therefore the Foundation wants to create a continuity reserve to cover operational and program costs for a period of 6 months. This time frame is based on a prudent assessment of the time required to source additional funding. According to 'The Wijffels code' this reserve should not exceed 1.5 times the operational costs. A higher reserve will need clarification. On December 31, 2010, the reserve was well below this limit.

Early 2011 the foundation received the confirmation from foundation Healthy Planet that an amount of EUR 30.000 is available for 2011 to increase our continuity reserve in case of necessity to continue projects.

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2010		
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Work in progress (5)	2010	2009
Net book value at January 1	293.872	177.675
Received amounts from donors	1.556.408	2.543.457
Organizational expenses	-1.875.949	-2.427.260
Closed projects – grants income	-6.439.050	0
Closed projects – expenses	6.739.942	0
Net book value at December 31	275.223	293.872

	31 December 2009			Movements in 2010			Movements in 2010			31 December 2010		
	Projects in progress			All projects			Closed projects			Projects in progress		
	Project expenses	Received advances	Balance	Project expenses	Received advances		Eligible expenses	Received income	Balance 31-12-2010	Project expenses	Received advances	Balance
Work in progress (5)												
MFS	4.215.757	4.296.977	-81.220	784.099	602.879		4.999.856	4.899.856	100.000	0	0	0
Fondation Ensemble SSHD	203.137	255.889	-52.752	57.752	5.000		260.889	260.889	0	0	0	0
Matra Moldova	349.477	375.789	-26.312	229.362	151.000		578.839	526.789	52.050	0	0	0
Matra Belarus	380.290	420.000	-39.710	71.623	31.913		451.913	451.913	0	0	0	0
EuropeAid projects	66.225	126.225	-60.000	165.167	256.816					231.392	383.041	-151.649
Kazakhstan	64.962	64.250	712	68.943	69.118					133.905	133.368	537
Azerbaijan	1.130	0	1.130	27.201	49.376					28.331	49.376	-21.045
Kyrgyzstan	133	61.975	-61.842	66.523	0					66.656	61.975	4.681
Multi-country energy	0	0	0	2.500	0					2.500	0	2.500
EuropeAid Chemicals Balkan	0	0	0	0	138.322					0	138.322	-138.322
SMOM	0	0	0	107.400	152.930					107.400	152.930	-45.530
SAICM	0	0	0	17.480	94.058					17.480	94.058	-76.578
Cehape Award	5.379	37.791	-32.412	69.911	37.499		75.290	75.290	0	0	0	0
EU Operating grant	0	0	0	288.290	173.394		288.290	173.394	114.896	0	0	0
Nanopodium	0	0	0	84.865	50.919		84.865	50.919	33.946	0	0	0
Prislop	1.434	2.900	-1.466							1.434	2.900	-1.466
Total	5.221.699	5.515.571	-293.872	1.875.949	1.556.408		6.739.942	6.439.050	300.892	357.706	632.929	-275.223

Notes to the balance sheet as at december 31, 2010		
	31-12-2010	31-12-2009
Trade payables (6)		
Accounts payable creditors	26.750	159.163
Wage tax & social security premiums	6.361	12.457
Amounts due to partner organisations	20.471	0
Provision benefits holiday schemes	20.594	23.993
Women in Europe for a Common Future eV (Germany)	27.166	0
Other liabilities	215.64	18.095
	122.906	213.708
Payables to related parties (7)		
Accounts payable Executive Director	41.420	28.830

Employee information

In 2010, the Foundation WECF in the Netherlands employed on average full time equivalents 8 employees (2009 8).

Remuneration executive director

The salary and social security premiums including pensions for the executive director amount to € 66.000 in total. The director also receives reimbursements for travel expenses, accommodation costs and cost for food and drinks, but only for actual incurred costs during activities for WECF. There are no other benefits applicable.

Remuneration Board members

No members of the Board of Trustees or the International Advisory Board received any remuneration for the year ended December 31, 2010. The members do receive reimbursements for actual incurred travel expenses, accommodation costs and cost for food and drinks. In 2010 a total of € 3.508 on reimbursements was paid.

Contingencies and commitments

The foundation has a rental obligation for renting the office premises of € 45.500 every year. The contract ends June 2014.

The foundation has an operational lease agreement for the office copier amounting to € 1.728 every year. The remaining obligation until the end of the contract amounts to € 6.336.

The foundation has a pension agreement with a life-insurance company in the Netherlands for all employees. The pension scheme concerns a defined contribution scheme therefore the possibility of future obligations is excluded.

With a local credit institution the foundation agreed upon a facility agreement, which means the foundation has a credit facility amounting to € 60.000 when necessary.

Related Party

The foundation WECF is economically involved with the Stichting Healthy Planet. The transactions between the both parties concern the rent agreement of the office premises of € 45.500 yearly and provided services concerning hiring external experts amounting to € 10.880.

Notes to the statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ended december 31, 2010			
	Actual 2010	Budget 2010	Actual 2009
Source of Income (1)			
1.1 Income from received grants governments	1.822.887	1.979.252	2.850.173
1.2 Contributions from WECF eV (Germany)	18.179	0	39.391
1.3 Contributions from private foundations	67.077	52.752	69.753
1.4 Other income	11.894	0	27.603
Total	1.920.037	2.032.004	2.986.920
1.1 Income from received grants governments			
MFS	784.099	784.096	1.968.159
MATRA	300.985	351.811	316.891
EU life +	288.290	288.290	307.764
Ministry of Environment	107.400	138.680	160.929
EuropeAid	165.167	341.375	66.225
Several ministries of EU member states (CEHAPE Award)	66.217	75.000	5.379
Nanopodium	84.865	0	0
SAICM	17.480	0	0
Other income	8.384	0	24.826
Total	1.822.887	1.979.252	2.850.173
1.2 Contributions from WECF e.V. (Germany)			
Women in Europe for a Common Future e.V. (Germany)	18.179	0	39.391
<i>For the EuropeAid projects about 25% co funding is required. Part of the co funding was realized through the legal party Women in Europe for a Common Future e.V. (Germany) which is our sister organization in Munich.</i>			
1.3 Contributions from private foundations (fundraising activities)			
SSHD project	57.752	52.752	69.753
HB Foundation	9.325	0	0
Total	67.077	52.752	69.753
1.4 Other income (fundraising activities)			
Donations	11.481	0	1.853
Membership fees	413	0	750
Donation Healthy Planet	0	0	25.000
Total	11.894	0	27.603
1.5 Additional information on staff expenses			
Salaries	493.555	626.453	683.529
Social security premiums	91.921	110.550	129.360
Pension premiums	17.964	18.000	17.718
Expert staff	64.700	60.000	78.481
Total	668.140	815.003	909.088

Allocation of costs per objective actual 2010 (annex 3 RJ 650)													
Strategic objectives								Strategic objectives					
	Sanitation	Water	Energy	Health/ Agriculture	Capacity building	Democracy	Total			Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	Operational and administrative expenses	Actual 2010	Budget 2010
MFS Partner expenses	162.173	22.390	42.108		19.208	19.502	265.380					265.380	297.584
Matra Belarus Partner	52.088						52.088					52.088	10.685
Matra Moldova Partner	108.047						108.047					108.047	118.000
SSHD Partner	149.348						149.348					149.348	91.748
EuropeAid partner				27.488			27.488					27.488	155.430
External experts	43.156	3.387	17.554	117.280	2.906	2.950	186.963				36.685	223.918	189.875
Travel- and accommodation	38.840	7.541	28.638	42.590	5.088	1.677	124.374				43.311	167.685	123.421
Publications and materials	23.331	3.931	10.404	43.384	6.740	1.875	89.665				107	89.772	41.308
Staff expenses	157.541	17.412	80.222	263.514	20.617	23.141	562.447			33.531	72.162	668.140	815.003
Communication costs							0				21.368	21.368	46.600
Depreciation charges							0				17.970	17.970	12.200
Office rent & expenses							0				60.486	60.486	63.000
Other general costs	33.977			12.239			46.216				18.505	64.720	62.550
Financial income and costs							0				3.214	3.214	4.600
Incidental charges							0					0	
Total	779.191	52.341	174.564	506.495	52.569	47.125	1.612.285			33.531	273.808	1.919.624	2.032.004
	41%	3%	9%	26%	3%	2%	84%			2%	14%	100%	

Allocation of costs per objective actual 2009 (annex 3 RJ 650)													
Strategic objectives								Strategic objectives					
	Sanitation	Water	Energy	Health/ Agriculture	Capacity building	Democracy	Total			Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	Operational and administrative expenses	Actual 2009	Budget 2009
MFS Partner expenses	563.105	98.370	53.113	45.894	42.101	15.431	818.014					818.014	1.000.000
Matra Belarus Partner	20.922						20.922					20.922	55.027
Matra Moldova Partner	47.231						47.231					47.231	99.190
SSHD Partner	143.730						143.730					143.730	75.000
EuropeAid partner	72.907						72.907					72.907	0
External experts	37.019	26.696	84.147	93.437	10.445	30.771	282.514				42.267	324.781	72.483
Travel- and accommodation	47.698	51.456	31.666	71.340	356	21.293	223.808				27.887	251.695	339.351
Publications and materials	108.351	9.219	9.590	23.686	1.113	22.332	174.291				7.787	182.078	357.559
Expenses made for partners	8.877						8.877					8.877	173.119
Staff expenses	235.597	188.914	101.707	167.969	19.286	21.092	734.564			40.208	134.316	909.088	1.070.000
Communication costs											21.550	21.550	39.100
Depreciation charges											27.495	27.495	14.400
Office rent & expenses											72.040	72.040	60.600
Other general costs											64.107	64.107	67.050
Financial income and costs											-5.197	-5.197	9.050
Incidental charges											-4.643	-4.643	0
Total	1.285.436	374.655	280.222	402.325	73.300	110.919	2.526.858			40.208	387.609	2.954.674	3.431.929
	44%	13%	9%	14%	2%	4%	86%			1%	13%	100%	

Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future
UTRECHT

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the in this report on page 92 to 101 accompanying financial statements 2010 of Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future, Utrecht, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2010, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes, comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility

The management of the foundation is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements and for the preparation of the management board report, both in accordance with Fundraising Institutions Accounting Guideline (RJ 650). Furthermore management is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. This law requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Flynth is onderdeel van de GIBO Groep. GIBO Groep gaat op termijn Flynth beten.

GIBO Registeraccountants is marktmerk uit van GIBO Groep bv.
GIBO Groep is lid van BGR International en heeft een strategische alliantie met Deloitte Adviseurs.
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Directieverlening vindt plaats onder algemeen voorwaarden, op aanvraag verkrijgbaar en gedeponeerd bij de KvK te Arnhem, nummer 09060024.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future as at 31 December 2010, and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with Fundraising Institutions Accounting Guideline (RJ 650).

We report, to the extent of our competence, that the management board report on page 84 to 87 is consistent with the financial statements.

Arnhem, 27 may 2011

Was signed:

Drs. A.F.J. van der Velden RA
GIBO Registeraccountants B.V.

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OTHER INFORMATION

Proposed result appropriation

The board of trustees agreed on the proposal of the director that the result of the year 2010 is allocated to continuity reserve. This decision has been incorporated in the reported balance sheet at 31 December 2010.

WECF representation

WECF represents women and civil society in a number of international policy processes and United Nations organisations

WECF and UNEP United Nations Environment Programme:

WECF director is co-chair of the UNEP major group and stakeholder facilitating committee. WECF president is member of the UNEP advisory group on International Environmental Governance. WECF facilitates the NGO coalition „Rotterdam Convention Alliance - ROCA“ which advocates for the implementation of prior informed consent on trade in hazardous substances, including chrysotile asbestos. WECF implements an awareness raising programme under the Quick Start Fund of SAICM - Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

WECF and UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

WECF is core member of the gender and women constituency of UNFCCC.

Contact sabine.bock@wecf.eu

WECF and UN CSD Commission on Sustainable Development:

WECF is a focal point for the women's major for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which holds the secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development, and organises the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference.

Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

WECF and UN WOMEN United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

WECF cooperates with UNWOMEN on the preparations of the Rio+20 UNCSO conference and the SEED award.

Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

WECF and UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

WECF co-chairs the NGO alliance ‚European Eco Forum‘ which is the focal point for the ‚Environment for Europe policy process. WECF is an implementing partner for UNECE and WHO of the 2011-2013 workprogramme of the ‚Protocol on Water and Health‘. WECF experts are a member of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making and contribute to ‚public participation in international forums‘ under the Aarhus Convention on access to public participation, information and justice on environmental matters.

Contact: claudia.wendland@wecf.eu and anke.stock@wecf.eu

WECF and WHO World Health Organisation:

WECF represents the environmental NGOs of the Eco Forum in the WHO-Euro ministerial policy process ‚Environment & Health‘, and is a member of the task force on Environment and Health. WECF cooperates on the implementation of the CEHAPE the Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe, and the Parma Ministerial Declaration.

Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

WECF and other UN programmes:

WECF cooperates with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) in national development activities, i.e. on gender and chemicals management. WECF cooperates with UNSGAB (United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation) on the ‚5 year drive for sustainable sanitation‘. WECF cooperates with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) on the WASH in School campaign.

Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

WECF has consultative status with ECOSOC (UN economic and social council) and is an accredited partner of UNEP.